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ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



NEWS

AMAA



UNWAVERING RESOLVE

THE SIMOURIAN LIFE-SAVING MISSION 30 YEARS LATER

LII 3

JULY • AUG • SEPT

2018



AMAA NEWS

is a publication of
The Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: (201) 265-2607; Fax: (201) 265-6015
E-mail: info@amaa.org
Website: www.amaa.org
(ISSN 1097-0924)

The AMAA is a tax-exempt, not for profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

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AMAA NEWS

31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652
E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

DESIGN
Caspianseal.com

NAMEPLATE & COVER DESIGN
Yearbook, Inc.

PRINTING:
Printsolutions.info
Englewood, NJ
Tel: (201) 567-9622

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30th Anniversary of Armenia's Earthquake

THE POWER OF “We’ve got to do something”

“Without commitment, nothing happens.”
T.D. Jakes

By Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO

Two Thousand Eighteen is the 30th anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Armenia which took place on December 7, 1988.

It is also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

This September, the AMAA will celebrate our Centennial in the Homeland, Armenia. On September 30 we will inaugurate the new AMAA Community Center and Sanctuary in Gyumri and dedicate it to God Almighty. A Center that is AMAA’s gift to the people of Gyumri.

Over one hundred guests and donors from the Diaspora will join the community on September 30 to celebrate the revival of Armenia’s historical epicenter of cultural heritage and intellectual treasure. This Center will bring joy, add a smile on the faces of its children and bring honor to God.

In doing so, the AMAA follows suit of an amazing couple in the ranks of its members who 30 years ago, faced with the human and national tragedy that struck the Homeland, firmly asserted, “we’ve got to do something.” They did. And have continued to do ever since.

The feature story of John and Michele Simourian in this current issue of AMAA News reveals the power of “we’ve got to do something” commitment, goodwill and action. The story of an amazing miracle in a world separated by an Iron Curtain reveals how a commitment for “we’ve got to do something” melts the barriers of impossibility and impassibility, injecting life in a perceived hopeless reality.

Thanks to staunch AMAA supporter Phyllis Dohanian’s connection, the renowned (now retired) reporter and editor for The Boston Globe, three-time Pulitzer Prize sharing member and editor of the Globe’s investigative Spotlight Team, Stephen Kurkjian, picks up this breaking story for the historical perspective of our readers.

Also in this issue, AMAA Gyumri’s Representative Karen Manukyan, who was in the 7th grade during the 1988 earthquake, peeps through a periscope of memory, the conditions following the deadly earthquake and places the tragedy on a scale against the blessings of AMAA’s new Center and rich history of involvement and service in the region.

The AMAA Orphan and Child Care Program, itself a birth child of the earthquake, continues to serve the impoverished children of Armenia and Artsakh. Michele Simourian, an AMAA Board Member and founding Co-Chair of the Program, has recently taken a back seat after vigorously leading and serving for over 25 years. The AMAA is so appreciative of her many years of service and commitment.

The AMAA is soundly on track with our “we’ve got to do something” commitment, extending our legacy of Faith, Love and Service all around the globe to a second century.

And, our AMAA Centennial Campaign continues with a wide range of programs and services that need funding and support.

We are proud of the many accomplishments of people like John, Michele, Stephen and Karen and so many others too numerous to mention. We invite each of you to search your heart and see where your “I’ve got to do something” focus lands.

All of us at the AMAA sincerely thank you for your continued support of our efforts. □



The Untold Story

The Earthquake that Shook Armenia The Relief Effort that *Changed the World*

By Stephen Kurkjian*

John A. Simourian was a legendary athlete at Watertown (MA) High School and Harvard College during the mid-1950s and his successes on the football and baseball fields made him one of the most celebrated Armenian-American sports figures in the 20th century.

Yet unbeknownst to everyone except a few close friends, Simourian initiated a relief effort that saved the lives of numerous victims of the devastating earthquake in Armenia in 1988 by reaching out to two players he had met while leading Harvard's football team 30 years before.



John Simourian rushes downfield for Watertown High School's football team - Watertown High School Yearbook

The relief effort, which depended on a secret agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to succeed, was spurred by an entreaty to Simourian by his wife Michele that "we've got to do something" hours after learning of the disaster.

Three decades later, the devastating earthquake is a reminder of the horrific events that Armenia and its people has had to endure to survive through history. But a closer look of what followed it, particularly the collapse of Communism and the closing of ties between those in the diaspora and the homeland, is also a tribute to the distinctly Armenian-characteristic of not only surviving national tragedy but becoming stronger from it.

For Simourian, that journey began the morning after he learned of the earthquake. From his office as president of his family-owned transportation company, he called the chief of one of the country's

largest manufacturers of dialysis equipment, a man whom Simourian had competed against while quarterbacking Harvard's football team and told him of the crisis.

Having seen television images of the devastation, Vernon R. Loucks, Jr., Chairman of Baxter International and former end for Yale's varsity football team, was only too willing to help with a massive relief effort. Baxter would donate more than a million dollars' worth of modern dialysis equipment – as well as the doctors and technicians to operate them – that was desperately needed in Armenia.

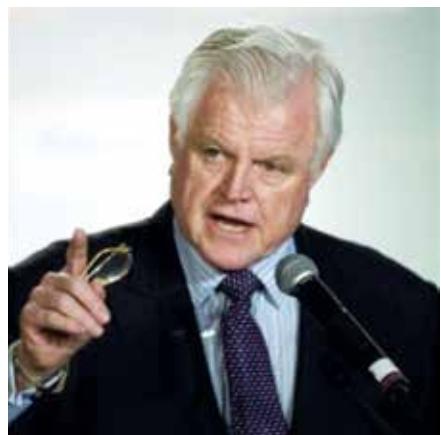
"I consider what we did here perhaps the best thing I ever accomplished in my business career," said Loucks, now 83. "And the real reason I did it was because of the sense of urgency in John's voice."

But Loucks knew that the 20 machines and related equipment needed to get to Armenia immediately or they would do little good to bring medical relief to the earthquake victims. Survivors of collapsed buildings invariably suffer shock, which can lead to fatal kidney damage unless treated with dialysis quickly.

Loucks asked Simourian if he knew anyone in Washington, D.C. who could cut through the red tape and expedite the transport of the equipment from the United States to Yerevan. Simourian's next phone call was to the



Vernon R. Loucks, Jr., Chairman, Baxter International.



Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

most important person he knew in Washington – US Senator Edward M. Kennedy, an influential member of the Senate Armed Services Committee who had been an end on the Harvard University varsity football team that Simourian played for during the 1950s.

Kennedy too had seen the television coverage of the devastation that the earthquake had brought and pledged to Simourian that he would do anything he could do and do it as soon as possible. But, according to Simourian, Kennedy insisted on one condition – that neither Simourian nor Loucks make any mention of Kennedy's involvement in getting the desperately-needed approvals and permits granted. Simourian – and Loucks – kept that pledge for three decades even though the doors that he helped open for them were monumental and their impact both life-saving and long-lasting for Armenia.

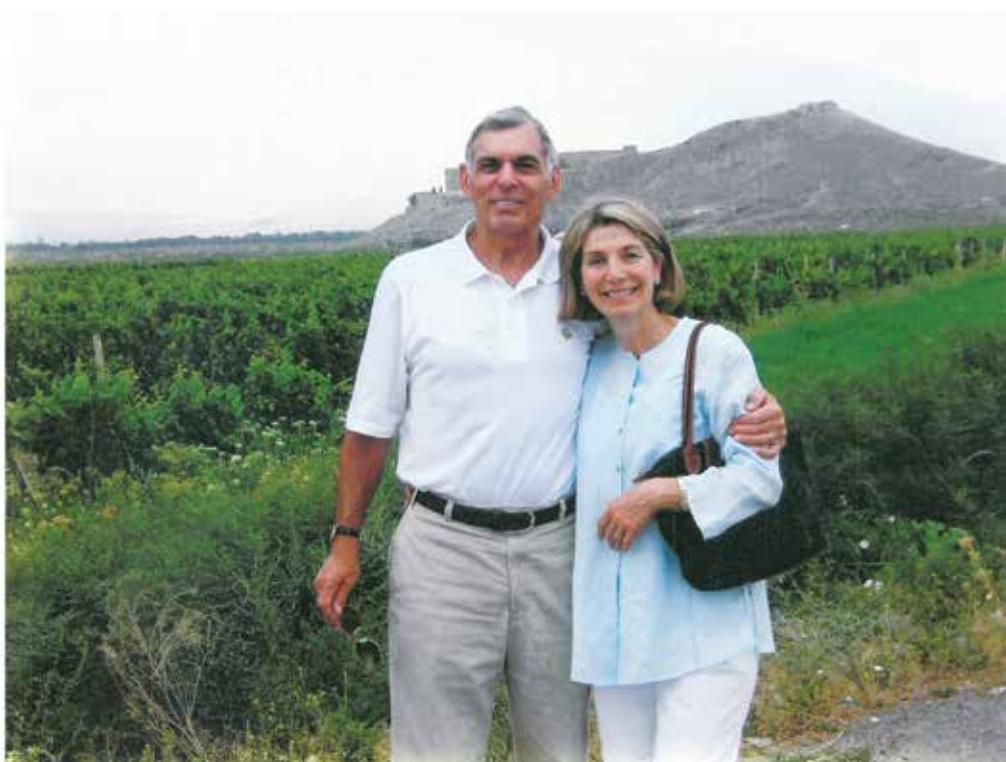
Kennedy's official papers cataloguing his work in the Senate have yet to be made public so documenting the actual steps he might have taken to facilitate the Baxter shipment from the United States to Armenia was impossible. However, Kennedy spoke of his commitment to the relief effort a few weeks later when the Soviet Union placed a sudden halt on all relief shipments to Yerevan. At a press conference at Boston's Logan Airport where several planes filled with emergency goods had been delayed from taking off, Kennedy said:

"It will not only be physical things on that flight but, more deeply, it will be prayers and a sense of loss. This isn't just one plane. There will be a second plane, and a third plane, and a fourth plane. The American people are resolute, and we are going to continue our efforts for Armenia."

But by that time the Baxter dialysis equipment had already arrived in Yerevan and had been installed and being used to treat needy victims. How did it get there – by an extraordinary concession to America's fiercest Cold War adversary. Apparently through Kennedy's intercession, the Pentagon cleared a Soviet military transport plane to land at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland, the same airfield used by the President's Air Force One, and take off from there to Yerevan.

At the same time, again apparently through Kennedy's influence, the US State Department and the Soviet embassy in Washington gave immediate approval to allow Dr. Allan Collins, a Minnesota kidney specialist, and three Baxter engineers and technicians to fly aboard the military transport plane – squeezed in with the 80,000 pounds of dialysis equipment – from Andrews Air Force Base to Yerevan.

"I've been around government operations before, but I'd never seen anything like this," recalled David Walker, a Baxter engineer who helped retrofit the new dialysis machines to make certain they would work once they arrived in Yerevan. "I still can't believe it happened – loading modern, American healthcare equipment onto a Russian plane on what has to be one of the most secure American military bases there is."



John and Michele Simourian in Armenia.



In December 7, the most powerful earthquake in Soviet history devastated Soviet Armenia, leaving hundreds of villages ruined, at least 300,000 people homeless, 25,000 dead, and tens of thousands injured. In a mission of mercy, three engineers from Baxter's Product Service Division responded, spending Christmas halfway around the globe, away from loved ones, saving lives.

Baxter Healthcare and Russian technicians load Baxter dialysis equipment onto a Soviet transport plane at Andrews Air Force Base outside of DC - Baxter newsletter

The flight – which stopped in Newfoundland and Moscow before reaching Armenia – lasted 20 hours. On arrival in Yerevan on December 20, the dialysis machines were immediately placed into the two Yerevan hospitals designated to treat those suffering from kidney damage.

The situation on the ground in Yerevan was near-desperate. According to Dr. James Tattersall, a British doctor who was one of the first medical personnel to rush to Armenia on hearing of the earthquake – arriving in Yerevan only days later – the need for the new kidney dialysis machines was urgent. He estimated that approximately 1,500 people, who had been rescued from collapsed buildings in Spitak and Leninakan (now Gyumri) and rushed to Yerevan for emergency dialysis treatment, died at the hospitals because of the lack of adequate dialysis equipment in operation at the time of the earthquake.

Ultimately, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who cut short a visit to the United States to rush to the earthquake-stricken region, would give official authorization for Armenia to accept humanitarian aid from the United States and the rest of the world. In all, more than 100 countries would respond. But, according to Dr. Sevak Avagyan, then a deputy within the Armenian Ministry of Health, it was the Baxter shipment of dialysis equipment that convinced the Soviet officials that they needed to accept humanitarian assistance from foreign countries.

"The only way to save those rescued from collapsed buildings was to get them on dialysis but our equipment was outdated and totally unable to meet the overwhelming demand," said Avagyan, who is now Executive Director of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry in Yerevan. "Baxter was one of the first to arrive. They opened the door."

Thirty years after the devastating earthquake, Simourian, having told only a few close friends about the relief effort over the years, spoke of it again over a recent dinner with Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Khanjian was so moved by the account, he asked Simourian to allow him to make it public. I was contacted by the AMAA and asked to connect with Simourian. I did and looking as fit and focused when he was earning headlines as a standout athlete at Watertown High School and Harvard, Simourian agreed to tell me the story of the relief mission.

* * *

With its epicenter about 55 miles north of Yerevan, the earthquake began at 11:41 in the morning of December 7. The earthquake reached such a force and brought such immediate destruction that many residents believed for a long time that it was not a natural disaster but an underground nuclear explosion that had struck.

Later determined to be the largest ever to hit inside the Soviet republics, the earthquake measured 6.9 on the Richter scale and lasted about 30 seconds. The two Armenian cities closest to the epicenter, Spitak and Leninakan, suffered between 25,000 to 50,000 deaths, and up to 130,000 people were injured.

For Armenia, a country of about 3 million people, the casualty level made the earthquake one of the most devastating national disasters in modern times.

Leninakan was the bigger of the two cities struck, in fact with a population of 200,000 it was Armenia's second largest

in size. Following the quake, the collapse of the buildings was so bad that those who lived there in the past and rushed to the scene to assist, could not recognize their neighborhoods. More than 15,000 of its residents were killed and 75 percent of the city said to be destroyed. Block after block of eight- to ten-story buildings, built during the Soviet regime with inadequate concrete and steel reinforcements, lay in rubble. Even though a Russian military base was located there, it lacked the heavy equipment and cranes needed to move the rubble to search for possible survivors.

Former head of the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Hayk Demoyan was a 15-year old school boy living with his family in Leninakan at the time. He had gone off to school with his brother that Wednesday morning with the warning of his mother echoing in his ears that she had had a nightmare and that the two boys should be extra careful at school that day.

Demoyan took notes of what happened during the next several days and shared them with me recently. He was in his shop class at 11:40 when the school began shaking, and his instructor immediately knew what was happening.

"He told us that it's a quake and that we should run," Demoyan wrote. "That race was the race between life and death. The creaking of the cement stairs, the party leaders' pictures and the sound of the shattering glass, the screams of the students and teachers, all mixed together, creating a truly hellish reality. The sounds coming from outside were frightening and impossible to forget."

On arriving home, he found that all members of his immediate family – his parents, brother and sister – had survived. But so



Armenian mother and children who survived the earthquake.



Iconic photograph of central Leninakan (now Gyumri) with clock showing the minute the earthquake struck.

many distant relatives had not, including his two cousins who were trapped beneath a building and spoke to rescuers for two days, before they died.

Anahit Harutyunyan** was only five years old living with her parents and sister. Now a reporter in Gyumri, she remembered being at her grandmother's home soon after the earthquake struck. "Everyone was watching the chandelier, not with the expectation of light but to see if it moved," she wrote in an article published in Mediamax.am in Armenia last year.

All the kids in her neighborhood learned to dread the Armenian word for earthquake – *Zhazhq* – and her lasting memory was standing in her grandmother's dining room and staring at the chandelier to see if it would sway violently as it had during the earthquake.

The destruction in Spitak was even worse. The city was virtually destroyed in the quake, and a third of its 15,000 residents killed. The roads in and out of the city were rendered impassable and those fortunate enough to be rescued from collapsed structures could not be transported to Yerevan or hospitals outside of the epicenter. It took more than a week for an organized relief effort to mobilize, and in the interim many survivors slept outside in the December cold. Even the city's main hospital collapsed during the earthquake killing both the patients and medical staff.

"The scale of the destruction drove people crazy, and each person focused on his own family," said an Armenian professional photographer who arrived at the scene within two hours of the catastrophe. "Those who were at the factory or office, ran home. They were walking over bodies."

Even though hundreds of relief workers rushed to the scene to assist in the recovery effort, the lack of power tools and heavy equipment hampered their efforts. An Armenian man who was found digging with his fingers and hands was told by a doctor that if he continued to dig that way, he risked amputation. According to the book, *Armenia in Crisis: The 1988 Earthquake*, the man answered: "What do my hands matter, everything I cherish is under there – my son, my daughter, my wife and my mother."

For those fortunate enough to be pulled from the rubble, kidney failure was an immediate concern. When a person is trapped under concrete or debris, their blood supply will continue to flow to their brain but not their kidneys and lower extremities. "Crush" is the medical term for the condition and serious kidney damage, even



President Mikhail Gorbachev in Gyumri soon after the devastating earthquake.

death, can result if the patient is not given dialysis treatment within a matter of days.

So, realizing that time was of extreme essence that numerous lives of victims who had been rescued from collapsed buildings hung in the balance, Armenians everywhere began to rally. Only a trickling few in the Diaspora had given much time or money to a Homeland still caught in the Soviet grip but the emergency presented by the earthquake was something different. The horrific impact of the earthquake was being broadcast every day by CNN and the major television networks and it gave rise to countless frantic conversations in numerous homes of Armenians across America and elsewhere.

One of them was at the Lincoln, MA home of George and Carolann Najarian, both of whom had been to Armenia in prior years in part to study the condition of public health but once there had joined the growing call for independence for the enclave of Karabagh (now Artsakh).

"I don't think many of the others had even been to Armenia, remember this was still during the Soviet regime, but this was something different – the suffering was on a massive scale and we needed to help," Carolann Najarian recalled.

While basic emergency supplies such as food, clothes, blankets and children's goods were foremost on the minds of countless people, a fundraising campaign was outlined among those who met at the Najarians' home. But soon organizations began to be established to address more deep-seated needs in the country, including the Armenian Children's Milk Fund, the Fund for Armenian Relief, the Armenian Health Alliance, Kirk Kerkorian's The Lincy Foundation and, in 1994, Carolyn Mugar's Armenia Tree Project. The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), which had been established in 1918 to provide care and support in numerous other countries for children left orphans by the Genocide, began the Earthquake Orphan Fund and provided care for the first time to children in Armenia.

For certain, the massive humanitarian relief effort did not take care of all of the damage done by the earthquake. At least 2,000 families in Gyumri still live in the tin shanties that provided housing for 40,000 residents immediately after the earthquake. But overall, three decades later, it is inspiring to consider the extraordinary rest of the Soviet Empire – since the earthquake. Public outrage by Armenians toward the shoddy construction of high-rise buildings that had collapsed in the tremors was followed by disgust over the



The collapse of Leninakan's poorly-constructed large apartment buildings added to the devastation.

slow and chaotic rescue efforts. Within a year, the Berlin Wall was falling, and Gorbachev was telling all Soviet republics they were free to declare their independence and Armenia the first to do so, by popular vote in 1990.

But the Simourians could envisage none of those changes as they drove away from the Najarians' home that night after the earthquake struck.

Michele Simourian recalled recently that with tears flowing down her eyes she looked at her husband, and said, "John, we've got to do something." Then she reminded him of his friendship with Vernon Loucks, his Ivy League football foe. Loucks had risen in the ranks of Baxter Healthcare and taken over as its CEO as well as its Board Chairman the year before, and Michele suggested John call him.

A life-saving mission between two world powers would result from that phone call and remarkably enough it was the product of the respect and trust that two men gained playing football against each other more than 30 years before.



Russian workers rushing relief material to Yerevan at Moscow's main International Airport.

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When asked recently about their strongest memory of the other, Simourian and Loucks both remembered the fierce competition each showed during the three varsity football games they played against one another between 1954-1956 – Yale winning two and Harvard one of The Games.

"I remember him because he played end on offense and defense," Simourian said. "I'm still sore from some of the tackles he made on me."

And what does Loucks remember about Simourian's play? "He was a threat on every single play. He wasn't the biggest guy on their team, but he was the most versatile," Loucks recalled.

Following their graduations, both served in the military – Loucks as a Marine, and Simourian in the Navy – and after graduating from Harvard Business School at different times both began their successful business careers: Loucks in healthcare and Simourian, with his son, building a trucking company into a national transportation organization, headquartered in Needham, MA.

Despite his legendary athletic record and successful business career, Simourian says the most important decision he made in his life was to court and marry Michele, now his wife of 56 years. Born in France, Michele met John after coming to Boston and later Simmons College. Long an advocate for Armenian causes and organizations, she has served as a Board member of the AMAA. In addition, she is co-founder with Elizabeth Agbabian of AMAA's Orphan and Child Care Committee commissioned by the Association.

If the idea for the relief mission began with Michele urging her husband to re-connect with his Ivy League football foe, Loucks credited one of Baxter's vice presidents, Warren D. (Don) Johnson, with immediately implementing the idea and getting the equipment and engineers ready for flight to Armenia.

Johnson was accustomed to emergency missions. A retired lieutenant general in the US Marine Corps, Johnson had been a fighter pilot during World War II and risen to become chief of staff of the US Strategic Air Command in Omaha and then director of the US Defense Nuclear Agency which was responsible for maintaining the country's atomic bombs and nuclear testing programs.

Because he had participated in negotiations between the US and the Soviet Union to reduce their nuclear arsenals, Johnson told Simourian he had contacts in Russia whom they could draw on. But echoing what Loucks had told him, Simourian recalled Johnson telling him that they needed someone in Washington who could facilitate getting the Baxter equipment transported from the United States to Yerevan.

That solidified it for Simourian – Kennedy was his only hope. In the early morning hours of December 18, 1988, a little more than ten days after the earthquake had struck Armenia, the Russian Aeroflot landed at Andrews Air Force Base, was quickly loaded with the 80,000 pounds of dialysis equipment and took off.

William Lundein, another of the three Baxter engineers who helped load the 20 dialysis machines aboard the plane in the pre-





Several Baxter technicians, who accompanied the transport of the Company's dialysis equipment to Yerevan, pose for a photograph at Andrews Air Force Base - Baxter newsletter

dawn dark, says he wasn't alone in wondering about the perilous nature of the mission he had joined. When he stepped out of a hangar to approach the transport plane, Lundeen recalls coming across a unit of US military commandos all dressed in black, whose commander told him: "We don't know who's coming off that plane, and we want to be sure we're prepared for anything."

It is evident Johnson too didn't know what the Baxter engineers and Dr. Collins, the kidney specialist from Minnesota, should expect once they landed in Moscow, the last leg of their flight before reaching Yerevan. In a cable to them, Johnson stressed they should memorize the name and telephone number of Dr. Yevegny Chazov, the top Health Minister in the Kremlin, in case they ran into any trouble.

Several years before, Chazov had joined with the renowned Boston-based cardiologist Dr. Bernard Lown to establish the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and the group was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

Johnson's cable also listed Norman Stein as a person to contact in case the group ran into any problems while in the Soviet Union. Stein, who had raised money for the anti-nuke organization and traveled to Russia on several previous occasions, recalls advising the Baxter group: "Whatever you do, never leave the medical equipment out of your sight, or it will disappear, and you'll never see it again."

On reaching Yerevan, they received a welcoming embrace from the Soviet officials and Armenian medical personnel – a clear measure of how desperate the medical situation had become. Because of the antiquated medical equipment, neither of the two hospitals designated to treat the earthquake victims were able to provide the needed care, and hundreds were dying every day or being sent to Moscow.

The three Baxter engineers went to work immediately outfitting their dialysis machines to the water treatment resources that existed at the two hospitals. By the end of December, the Baxter dialysis machines had been joined by other pieces arriving

from West Germany and England and together they were able to meet the critical demand that the earthquake had brought – the doctors were able to provide life-saving kidney dialysis treatment to 400 patients.

Anna Bulgarian, a 14-year old who had been pulled from a collapsed building, was one of the first to receive treatment from Dr. Collins. She was in a deep sleep when hooked up to the dialysis equipment but within two hours, her eyes opened, and she perked up enough to wave to Lundeen. "That was a real emotional level for everybody because this was the realization of the whole mission," Lundeen said.

Lundeen and his two colleagues returned to the United States by the end of December but that did not end the Baxter commitment to Armenia – Loucks sent another five technical and medical personnel to replace them. The second team's job was to continue to treat earthquake victims while working to make sure that Baxter's dialysis machines became part of Armenia's commitment to a modernized health care system.

Later that spring, Loucks summoned all of those Baxter employees who had participated in the relief effort to an appreciation dinner at the company's headquarters in Illinois, and he asked John and Michele Simourian to attend. "I knew we had done something that none of us would ever forget," Loucks said, "and I wanted to thank John and Michele as representatives of the Armenian people for letting us serve them." □



Miqaelian Hospital today, where the Baxter dialysis equipment was placed.

* **Stephen Kurkjian** is a retired reporter and editor for The Boston Globe and a founding member of The Globe's investigative Spotlight Team. He shared in three Pulitzer Prizes as a member and editor of the Spotlight Team. In recent years, Kurkjian authored the non-fiction book *MASTER THIEVES*, which is regarded as the most authoritative account of the historic and still-unsolved theft of masterpieces from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Kurkjian has also written extensively on the Armenian Genocide and is a Board member of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.



** Reporters **Anahit Harutyunyan** and **Ani Hovhannissyan** contributed from Armenia.

REBORN GYUMRI IS THE CENTER OF AMAA'S HEART

By Karen Manukyan, AMAA Gyumri Representative and Marine Manukyan, AMAA Gyumri Office Social Worker*

It's 1988...The Republic of Armenia is going through a severely trying period—she is fighting for the independence and freedom of her brother, Nagorno-Karabagh and trying to establish her independence from her most powerful neighbors. On the 7th of December 1988 at 11:41 a.m., it felt like another ordinary, mildly-cold winter day. People are going about their day, occupied with their normal tasks. One person dropped off her child at the preschool and is rushing to work. Some people are preparing to go to lunch. Many students are anxiously waiting for the sound of that long-awaited school bell.

But alas...on December 7, 1988, residents of the Shirak and Lori regions were robbed of their pleasant conversations, robbed of the apartments they had built with their own sweat, robbed of their families and those most dear and precious to them, and robbed of their dreams.

I remember I was in school; I was in the 7th grade. When the earthquake struck, we all ran outside of the classroom. Our classroom was in the second building of the school, but since our school had a strict system, none of us dared to break the windows on the first floor and run outside. Instead, we ran to the first building, where the main entrance was located. My classmates and I didn't reach the first building in time and the building crumbled on us. Next to me, one of the boys in my class had fallen. When the ground stopped shaking, a small light pierced through the dust and screams. Those who survived slowly moved toward that light. It was a small opening in the rocks, through which we were able to crawl out. On the outside it was more terrifying than on the inside. There were children who lost body parts, dead teachers, blood everywhere, dust, and bricks. The teachers who survived were trying to save the children. They placed the ones who had died on the sidewalks.

My father was a military officer. Before he got to the school, my mother had already run two kilometers, without stopping, and reached the school before him. My sister stayed home from school that day as she had an exam at her music school. Imagine being told that your children's school no longer exists, while you are running toward that school to save them. The disaster was terrible and the scars it created will forever remain in the memories of those who lived through it.

In just 30 seconds, about 40 percent of Armenia's land, which was inhabited by one million people, had been destroyed. The earthquake, with a magnitude of 9 and higher, had destroyed an



Karen and Marine Manukyan at work.

area of three thousand square meters. 21 cities and regions and 342 villages were affected. 514,000 people were left without shelter. Around 20,000 people received injuries of different degrees. 416 people, including 54 children, lost their limbs. 12,500 people were hospitalized, and 25,000 died. The number of lives lost was especially high in Gyumri (about 15,000-17,000) and in Spivak (4,000).

Due to the efforts of the townspeople and the rescuers, more than 45,000 people were taken out from beneath the ruins, whether dead or alive. During the first few days, people were being removed from the ruins with the use of basic tools and/or by hands.

Armen, who was my height and the son of a relative, was trapped under a concrete tile. When his father saw him bleeding, he sawed his feet off and rushed him to the airport in a stranger's car to get him to Yerevan. But the boy died on the way. Many victims were paralyzed, many children were orphaned, and many were taken abroad for medical assistance and remained there. Some had mental breakdowns after witnessing the deaths of their family members. The lives of many people were changed. Many were left at the verge of poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. A new culture was formed - one of social insecurity and individual insecurity.

Great damage was done to the architectural, historical, and art monuments, as well as to 917 centers of national education.

The architectural monuments in Gyumri were destroyed, including the “All Savior” church - Shirak’s ornament and pride. Gyumri, which was called Leninakan at the time, lost its craft centers, manufacturing companies and factories.

There were about 40,000 workers in more than 50 companies in the city that produced more than 700 types of industrial goods. Gyumri was one of the most important centers of the textile industry in the USSR and the largest one in Armenia. In the Republic, the first knitwear industry was founded in Gyumri. The most important industries also included the shoe-making and sewing industries. All of these were destroyed. People were robbed of their daily bread, their homes, and everything they had created over the years.

But the situation in Armenia was getting worse; the country was in a war zone, the Soviet Union had just collapsed, independent Armenia was still in the formation stage, and, added to all that, were the consequences of the earthquake. People did not have electricity, gas, running water, and essential living conditions. I remember that in the 1990s, we had electricity only at night, from 3:00 to 4:00 am. My mother would wake us up at that time so that we could bathe, while she cooked and did chores that required hot water. For many years, the basic conditions for day-to-day living were missing in Gyumri.

The world spoke of the tragedy of the Armenian nation. Hundreds of organizations, world-renowned actors, singers, politicians, and the entire Armenian Diaspora united and lent a helping hand to the people suffering from the devastating destruction. In those days, it seemed as though Armenia had become the center of the world. Yes, life continued. God helped the widow find solace in the hope of living with family members who had survived. He comforted the mothers who lost their sons, and the broken families by reuniting them. Through the help of many powerful institutions and benevolent individuals, new apartments and houses were constructed. Denmark, Italy, Great Britain, and other countries helped build schools, hospitals, kindergartens, and other educational centers in Gyumri. Volunteers from different cities and villages in Armenia, as well as from abroad, helped rebuild the city.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America had no less of a contribution during those days. The organization immediately began its benevolent projects in Armenia, mainly in the region of Shirak. The AMAA aided disaster-affected families by providing food, medication, baby food, clothes, stationery, and much more.

The AMAA was officially registered in Gyumri in 1999. The AMAA Child Sponsorship Program was launched, which aided children from orphanages, socially vulnerable and disadvantaged families, as well as children from families with multiple children or absent parents. About 590 children were registered in the Sponsorship Program in 1999 and 120 children were given baby milk every month. Thanks to this program, many broken hearts were healed, unfulfilled dreams once again came true, and many young men continued their higher education.

The children who attended the various AMAA programs went on to become doctors, educators, economists, historians, artists, and ultimately, good citizens for the nation. The AMAA offered summer camps in Armenia, where children spent their holidays and experienced a new feeling of being loved and cared for. Many children from the Shirak region benefited from this wonderful

program; however, many children were deprived of it because of the disaster.

Over the years, medical clinics and dental clinics were established in cities affected by the earthquake. Several cultural and educational programs were launched, and different organizations and benefactors rebuilt schools and preschools. The AMAA was a glimmer of hope, a lighthouse in those gray and dreary days, and now it has become an even closer friend and a relative to the families where it has shown rays of its great light and warmth.

In 2015, the AMAA began constructing a new building in Gyumri. The staff of the Gyumri office moved to the newly-constructed building in 2018 and started programs with a renewed energy and a more cheerful spirit. The new building, which is very different from the previous one, gives new opportunities to implement the vision and mission of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Gyumri and the AMAA in Gyumri. The new church building is so large and bright that it feels as though it invites believers to know God’s love and affection. The church hall is also suitable for the Christmas and Easter programs, and other great events. The new building helps involve more children in the different cultural and educational programs.

The perfect choice of stone color and architectural elements of Gyumri’s new AMAA building complement the colors of Gyumri and fill its cultural gap. For almost 30 years, that same area held the half-ruined houses, which served as a remembrance of the earthquake. AMAA’s Gyumri office has helped several thousand families over thirty years. Thousands of children have benefited from the baby milk and the social sponsorship programs. Thousands of children have been and are being educated in the cultural, educational, and handicraft groups.

In 2018, 1,000 children were invited to the Christmas event where they received gifts. Along with the parents, about 1,800 people attended the event. More families will be taken out of their socially vulnerable conditions. New job opportunities were created for several social workers and teachers. The Gyumri office’s previous educational program was moved to the new building and became a community-based “Shogh” Daycare Center, which aids 60 children. “Shogh” will give children the opportunity to develop their knowledge, acquire new skills, and take firm and consistent steps toward creating a bright new future.

At present, the Gyumri office has about 300 children involved in the tapestry, macramé, embroidery, carpet making, table decoration, design, drama, painting, woodworking, and dance classes. 90 adults attend the Sunday services and 120 children attend Sunday school. This year, 240 children and young adults from Gyumri are participating in the Summer Camp programs. The children now come to the Center with pleasure and enthusiasm, the classrooms are bright and hospitable, and the staff works in comfortable conditions. Currently, 26 registered and 7 volunteer employees are serving in the Gyumri office and the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Gyumri.

The staff of the Gyumri office is proud and happy to be working in such an organization and for having the opportunity to serve its residents, especially the children.

The past will not be forgotten. We will never forget the thousands of helping hands that were lent to us, the unfamiliar names that have become dear to us, and the good work that helped our suffered nation to get back up on its feet. □

*Translated from Armenian by Christina Nercessian



30 Years After the Earthquake in Armenia

By Rev. Dr. René Léonian*

Jesus answered, "It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4

It is almost 30 years since an earthquake ravaged Armenia's northern region on December 7, 1988. The whole world came to the aid of Armenia including the Armenian Diaspora and the Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide which were mobilized through the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

My wife Sylvie and I were sent by the AMAA to Armenia on a cargo plane just three weeks after the Earthquake to lighten the burden of the victims. After this visit, I wrote a detailed report describing the situation and the needs of the Armenian people. The AMAA then communicated to its members and friends the medical, social, as well as the spiritual needs of Armenia. Soon after the Earthquake an Armenian psychologist from Paris also went to Armenia for a few months. He visited the earthquake region and travelled from village to village spending time with families and individuals to hear their stories and their feelings to help minimize their pain. Upon his return to Paris he said, "Pastor, I am troubled by what I saw and heard in Armenia. When I asked the Armenians, who lost everything and had nothing, 'what is your need and how can I help?', often their response was, 'Can you give me a Bible as a gift?' Personally, I am an atheist. But to be true to my promise to these people, I will be thankful if you can give me 200 Armenian Bibles to take with me when I return in a few weeks."

In early 1990 the AMAA and its French partner "Hope for Armenia" decided to send a large number of Bibles to Armenia even though it was still the Soviet era. In March 1990, with the help of AMAA Executive Director Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, we received three large trucks from Europe, filled with 50,000 Armenian Bibles. The trucks arrived in Yerevan at Lenin's Square (today Republic Square) and stayed at the Square for three days until by a miracle they cleared Customs by the Communist Authorities. The joy of thousands of people who received these precious gifts in the coming days was unimaginable.

Yes, the Word of our Lord Jesus is always on target: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

We live in a materialistic world today and it is hard for us to understand the true value of life. When we are young, society teaches us some secrets so that we can find success in our lives: good education, professional training, go up the career ladder, start a good family, and in general enjoy to the maximum all the good things in life.

Of course, these things are important. We need to accomplish as many of these successes as possible, so we can reach the goals we've set. However, we cannot be satisfied only with material, familial and social success. We must realize that as humans, we are created by God who is the King and Lord of the heavens and the earth. As Christian believers, we know that our mission is to communicate the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. This Good News is of course about the love of God and the love of people.

But this Good News first and foremost is the message of reconciliation between God and people. We were lost, far from God because of our sin. But now the light has come before us. We are not alone. Jesus Christ touched our hearts and with faith we understood that this message is for us. God forgave our sins, and this is possible because Jesus Christ gave His life on the Cross, with His Blood washed away our trespasses, and with His resurrection gave us victory. What a beautiful hope! Yes, as human beings we need material bread to live. But we also need to hear the Word of God. This Word is present with us to lead us, to correct us, and to give us true life, the life that we live today which continues onto eternal life.

Our world needs spiritual revival. No matter what happens, regardless of where we live, we feel this need, not only for Armenians but for all nations and peoples. May Christian organizations, including the AMAA, continue in their mission to spread the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ along with their outreach of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people.

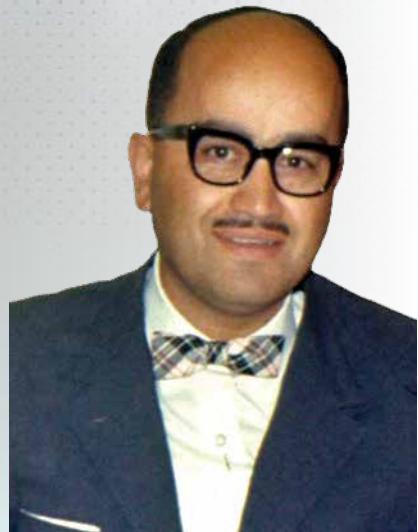
On the occasion of the Centennial of the AMAA and the 30-year anniversary of the Earthquake, may God renew our strength, goals and vision to continue to serve only for His glory. □



* Rev. Dr. René Léonian is AMAA/AEWC Representative in Eurasia and President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Eurasia.

IN MEMORIAM

Meet Our Veteran Pastors Rev. Vahan Bedikian



Editor's Note: It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Our Veteran Pastor Rev. Vahan Bedikian, who went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 3. We had already prepared his bio to feature him in this issue of the AMAA News as Our Veteran Pastor. However, because of his passing, we now dedicate this to his blessed memory. Our condolences to the Bedikian family. May God comfort them with His Holy Spirit. *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day... 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Rev. Vahan Bedikian was born on April 12, 1931 in Alexandretta, Turkey and grew up under the influence of devout Christian parents.

In 1938, the family moved to Beirut, Lebanon where he attended Armenian Evangelical High School. For his higher education he attended the American University of Beirut along with a combined program at the Near East School of Theology (NEST). He graduated from both institutions in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts and a diploma in theology degrees, respectively. Rev. Bedikian assisted Rev. Garabed Tilkian at First Church in Beirut for one year after his graduation from the NEST.

Rev. Bedikian was the Armenian Missionary Association of America's missionary in Syria following Rev. Hovhannes Karjian who left in 1956. The project was launched under the initiative of Rev. Puzant H. Kalfayan, the Executive Secretary of the AMAA. There were a number of Kurdish Armenians in the Kamishli area who had no spiritual leadership or any connection to the Armenian community. (This is the same area that has been more recently controlled by ISIS terrorists.) These Armenians worshipped in the local Presbyterian Church.

In 1957, he chose to go to the Bethel Church of Aleppo which was without a minister. There he met Zevart Abajian and they were married in 1958. He served Bethel Church and School for five years as minister, teacher and school administrator.

Rev. Bedikian and his family arrived in the United States in 1962 where he continued his post-graduate studies. Along with his preaching on Sundays, he pursued his studies at Hartford Seminary Foundation and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1963. In 1964, he received his Master of Sacred Theology degree from the Union Theological Semi-

nary of New York and also served the Armenian Presbyterian Church of New Jersey.

While serving the Armenian Evangelicals of Washington, D.C., he was ordained on October 9, 1966 by the United Church of Christ and the Armenian Evangelical Union where a new church was being formed. During the summer of that year he was called to minister at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco. After serving there for about eight years, he submitted his resignation in late 1974.

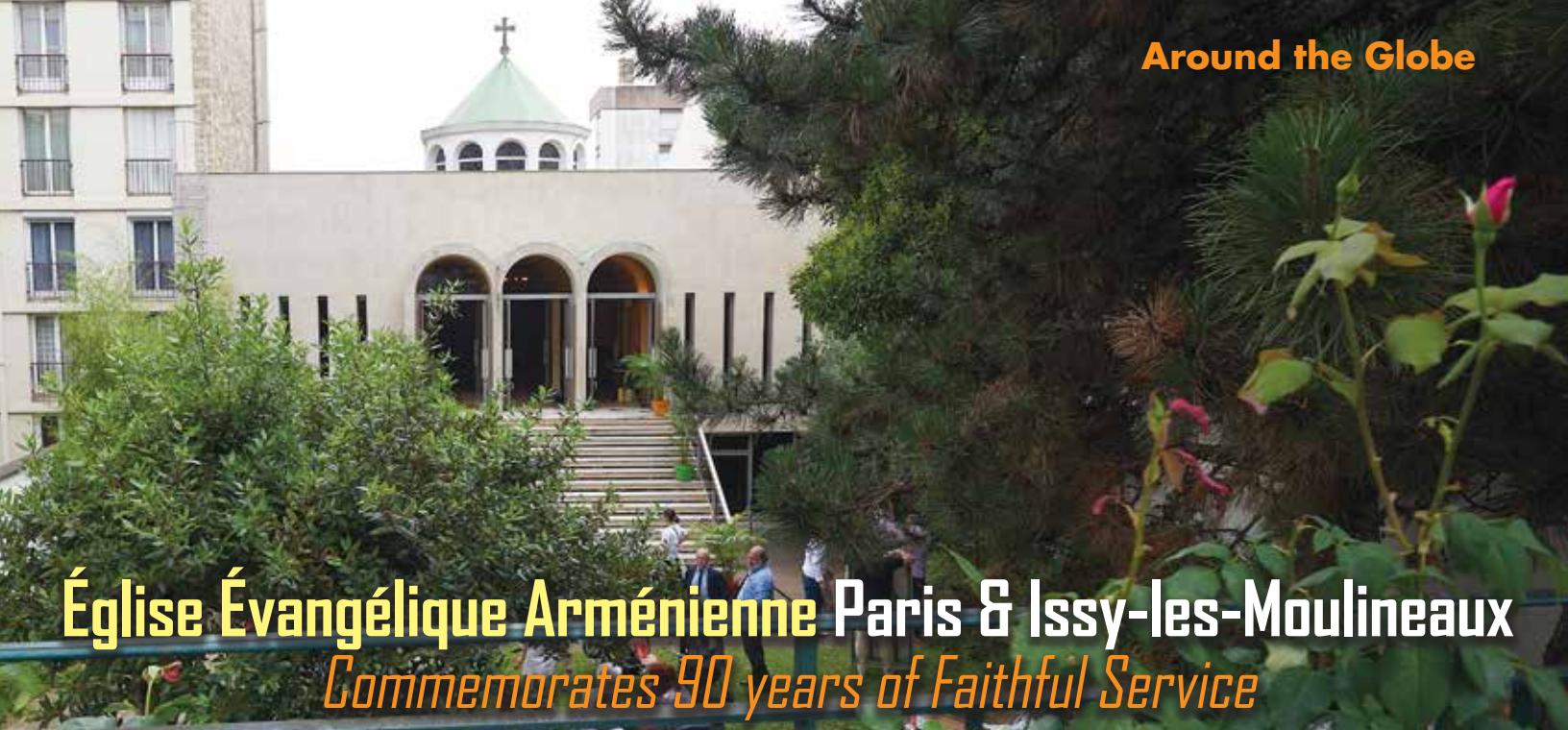
Even though he received his credentials from the Sacramento Board of Education to teach in California in 1975, he decided to enter the business world.

Rev. Bedikian was an uncompromising leader. He upheld the principles and traditions of the Armenian Evangelical Church with the utmost faithfulness. His ministry has been characterized as an ecumenical one. Whether it was in Aleppo, Syria or San Francisco, Pastor Vahan brought together Armenian civic and ecclesiastical leaders of different persuasions. He has always believed that a true Armenian is one who has learned to establish friendships upon intellectual, cultural and ethnic interests and concerns with other Armenians of varied political, religious and ideological affiliations.

He once expressed his philosophy as "It is our spiritual duty to disseminate the Christian spirit of love and respect for all, especially toward those who do not think like us."

Rev. Bedikian and his wife, Zevart, have three children Varouj, Ara and Lory. □

This is an amended version of Rev. Vahan Bedikian's biography by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, which was published in Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian's book "Fifty Years of Christian Service." 2000, pages 52-53.



Église Évangélique Arménienne Paris & Issy-les-Moulineaux

Commemorates 90 years of Faithful Service

Issy-les-Moulineaux is located in the southwestern suburban area of Paris, France, lying on the left bank of the River Seine. Issy is home to a community of 5,000 Armenians that have established themselves in the area since the 1920s. The community has two Armenian churches, an athletic club, a school, a monument dedicated to the Armenian Genocide, a street named after Armenia called Rue d'Armenie, and another street named after Armenia's capital Yerevan called Rue d'Erevan. In January 2016, Issy-les-Moulineaux merged into the Métropol du Grand Paris (Metropolis of Greater Paris).

During 1926-1927, Bible Study meetings began at Brother Yapoudian's home in Ile Saint-Germain in Issy-les-Moulineaux. The meetings were first led by Brother Yapoudjian and then by Brother Vahan Sahagian, who was studying theology at the Biblical Institute of Nogent-sur-Marne. Brother Sahagian also organized weekly Bible meetings in Paris and surrounding areas with help from Haïganouch Hagopian and Wiedeman of Action Chrétienne en Orient.

The first official Worship Service took place on Sunday, January 29, 1928 at the Maison Populaire, located at 135 Boulevard Sébastopol in Paris. These Worship Services were attended by many families from Issy-les-Moulineaux.

In September 1928, Brother Zacharie Boudakian moved to Paris to study at the Biblical Institute of Nogent. He was also appointed Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical



Rev. Joël Mikaélian, current Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Paris & Issy-les-Moulineaux.



The Armenian Evangelical Church of Paris & Issy today.



The Armenian Evangelical Church of Issy & Paris in 1932.

Church in Paris and its region, becoming the first official Pastor of the Church. While attending theological classes, he organized the life of the Church and meetings in Paris, Issy-les-Moulineaux, Alfortville, Meudon, Bois-Colombes, Asnieres, Kremlin-Bicetre, Choisy-le-Roi, Bagneux, Sarcelles and in other nearby areas. In 1930, the Sunday Worship Services were held at the Fraternal House, Rue Tournefort in Paris; then, in 1934, at the Reformed Church of Luxembourg in Paris. A teacher, Arménag Missirian, assisted Pastor Boudakian beginning in 1931.

While Worship Services were taking place in Paris, the number of participants meeting in Issy-les-Moulineaux was growing. The families of Issy began considering building a structure to house the Armenian Evangelical Church in Issy-les-Moulineaux and in 1937 a lot was purchased on Boulevard Rodin. However, it was later sold, and new land was purchased in 1944 at 28 Avenue Bourgoin. A small two-story building was built that provided rooms for worship services, for Youth activities along with a manse for the pastor.

In 1939, Pastor Boudakian was mobilized and taken prisoner in Germany. Brother Arménag Missirian replaced him and became Pastor of the Issy-les-Moulineaux Church until 1972.

In 1972, Pastor Jean-Daniel Sahagian became Pastor of the Church. Under his ministry in 1978, the construction of a new, more spacious and functional building took place to house the Church and it was inaugurated on May 7, 1978.

Pastor René Léonian succeeded him in 1983 and promoted dialogue with the different components of religious and community life in Issy-les-Moulineaux and Paris. Rev. Léonian also promoted the visibility of the Church in the public sphere.

In 1993, Pastor Gilbert Léonian was appointed Minister of the Issy Church. Under his ministry, work in the northern region of Paris was consolidated and organized, giving birth to a new community in Arnouville les Gonesse. In 1996, the Issy Church hosted the world-wide Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church and dedicated a khachkar on the occasion.

In 2003, Pastor Joël Mikaélian was appointed Pastor of Issy, Paris, Alfortville and the Paris region churches. For several years the Issy Church supported the sister churches of Alfortville and Arnouville, where a piece of land and a building were purchased.



Worship Service at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Paris & Issy-les-Moulineaux.



The Praise and Worship Team of Issy Church.

In 2005, the Church retook the name Armenian Evangelical Church of Paris & Issy-les-Moulineaux. In 2015, an International Symposium was organized by the Church as part of the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide and a stele in memory of the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide was dedicated in the Church gardens. In 2016, a new youth space was opened on the Church premises to help improve activities for the children and youth.

Today, the Issy Church gives thanks to God for His kindness and faithfulness toward them during the past 90 years. □



The Choir of Issy Church.



Sunday School children of Issy Church.



The Armenian Missionary Association of America

A Legacy of Faith, Love, and Service

By Rev. John Khanjian, Ph.D.

Part III

100 Years of Devoted Leadership

Rev. Jirair Sogomian, who served as AMAA Executive Director from April 1, 2001 to August 9, 2003, attempted to organize and streamline the operations in Armenia, and worked on updating the mission statement, policies and procedures of the AMAA. As the good pastor that he was, he established personal contacts with the donors. Upon his resignation, Rev. Peter Doghramji, Ph.D. was appointed as the Interim Acting Director from January to August of 2004 while the Board of Directors was searching for a permanent Executive Director.

Andy Torigian, a layman who had served as a fighter pilot for two years during WWII and had a successful electronics business, was elected as Executive Director. He also had a long service record within the AMAA. He served on the Investment Committee for 46 years, Personnel Committee for 18 years, Treasurer for two years and President of the Board for nine years (from 1997 to 2005). He also held the dual position as President of the Board and Acting Executive Director from September 25, 2000 until April 1, 2001 and later from August 2003 until December 2004, serving for gratis. From August 2004 to February 2010, he was reimbursed for his services as full time Executive Director. Mr. Torigian went to Armenia 33 times, some with Rev. Janbazian, participated in laying the foundation of the Vanadzor Church, received many parcels of land from the government of Armenia as gifts to build churches and AMAA centers, and secured the Baghramyan 18 property which was formerly the United States Embassy in Yerevan. The purchase and renovation of this property required fundraising which was achieved with great

success. After two years, \$11.5 million was raised; part of this fund was used to purchase the two-hectare land for the Avedisian School. Mr. Torigian with his kind and gracious manner carried the torch of the AMAA and kept it going to new levels of service.

In early 2010, Levon Filian was appointed Executive Director of the AMAA. After serving a brief period at the Association's headquarters in Paramus, NJ, Mr. Filian was transferred to Los Angeles to assume the post of West Coast Executive Director. He was involved in the construction of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in Yerevan, Armenia, and in securing funds for this large educational complex. The building and the School have become a model of architectural and academic excellence. Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian was appointed as Interim Executive Director for one year (October 2013-October 2014) while the Board searched for a permanent Executive Director.

Zaven Khanjian was appointed Executive Director/CEO on September 1, 2014. He was very active in the Greater Los Angeles Armenian community and served on pan Armenian organizations and church related committees. Mr. Khanjian, who commenced his appointment with great enthusiasm, embarked on an ambitious vision to embrace the future of the AMAA with the Centennial Campaign to raise 20 million dollars for capital projects and a host of endowment and operating funds. In addition to his many responsibilities, Mr. Khanjian is involved in several building projects in Armenia and particularly in the construction of the AMAA Church and Community Center in Gyumri. Through his concerted efforts in the use of social media and the internet, the AMAA's worldwide endeavors are reaching a larger audience. He is also heavily involved in the Syrian-Armenians crisis and its relief efforts.

To conclude this part of the AMAA history without speaking about the unsung heroes would be a grave injustice to the 100 years of devoted service which the Board of Directors and the members of the various committees have rendered. The Board members are the dynamic power which propelled the Association to its present high status as a worldwide organization. These people have given of their time, money, talent, spent restless nights and provided loving care for many years. The Presidents of the AMAA have played a very significant role in maintaining the mission and guiding the Association



AMAA Headquarters
in Yerevan, Armenia.



AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee members honored at AMAA Banquet held on October 17, 1999 in Los Angeles, CA.

through hard and good times. On a separate page their names and pictures will be presented. Currently, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian is leading the Association with wisdom, devotion, and generously contributing to the Centennial fundraising. The Executive Secretaries and Directors may be the front people, but behind them stand a number of faithful and devoted benefactors and thousands of donors of modest means who are worthy of great respect and appreciation. Thank you.

100 Years of Outreach

The extensive and gracious outreach of the AMAA in 24 countries will be presented very briefly under four headings: Evangelism, Education, Youth Programs, and Humanitarian Relief.

Evangelism

Evangelism, which is part and parcel of the name Armenian Evangelical Church, has many meanings; for some it refers to revival meetings where the individual is led to avoid hell and secure heaven; to others it means proclamation of the Good News of the Kingdom of God in word-and-in-deed and to address issues of peace, justice, reconciliation, and environmental responsibility. One understanding is self-oriented while the other is other-oriented. The evangelistic work is not the mission of the AMAA or of the Church. It is, in reality, God's mission of redeeming and reconciling the world to Himself and we are invited to participate in it as partners who have been touched by the Grace of God.

The evangelistic work of the AMAA has been involved in preaching the Gospel, publication of Christian literature, planting churches, and supporting existing churches to continue their spiritual service to their communities wherever they are planted. The Armenian Evangelical Churches world-wide have formed five Unions (Armenia, Eurasia, France, Near East and North America) and an Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe, which was initiated by Rev. Janbazian. Currently there are 145 churches and fellowships around the world, most of which depend on help from the AMAA. Listed below are the Armenian Evangelical churches in 24 countries in alphabetical order.

Abkhazia has one church in Sukhumi established in 1960.

Argentina has one church in Buenos Aires established in 1925 by Genocide survivors.

Armenia, which is considered the largest mission field of the AMAA, has 23 churches, six Christian Education Centers, and six

community-based Education Day Centers. These churches, as the date next to each indicates, are relatively young with young pastors most of whom attended the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia. Faced with a low tide in the Armenian Evangelical movement in the Diaspora that reflects a trend in Western Christendom where maintenance has replaced growth, the leadership of the AMAA deems Armenia as of "utmost importance to the future of the Armenian Evangelical Movement as we know it."¹¹ Thus, Armenia is perceived as the bright hope of the future and resources are allocated to promote the field, which was neglected during the 70 years of Soviet rule. The following list names the city or town where churches are located with the date of their establishment: Abovian (2001); Aintab (2005); Alaverdi (1999); Armavir (1999); Artashat (2000); Berd (2000); Dilijan (2000); Goris (2001); Gyumri (2000); Ijevan (1996); Kapan (2001); Noyemberian (2001); Shirakamout (1999); Sissian (2001); Spitak (1998); Stepanavan (1994); Tumanian (2002); Vanadzor (1994); and Vardenis (2006). Yerevan has four churches: 18 M. Baghramyan St. (1994); Malatia-Sebastia (2002); House of Hope (2003); and 2 Mamikonians (1995). In addition to the above, there are six Christian Education Centers: Agarak (1995); Azatamout (1999); Goghp (2002); Gourtan (1994); Urut (1997); and Vardablour (1996). In the Hankavan Region, the sprawling Sheen "Shoghig" Camp serves hundreds of children every summer.

Artsakh (formerly Karabagh) since its liberation has been on the priority list of the AMAA. To date there is only one church in Stepanakerd (2003) and three Christian Education Centers in Askeran, Shushi (had a Swiss mission station in 1821) and Stepanakerd; and the "Shogh" Community based Educational Day Centers in Askeran and Shushi.

Australia, which has become an immigration destination for Armenians from Armenia, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, and Syria, has a vibrant church established in 1960. Lately a new church facility was built on the old site.

Belgium has welcomed many Armenians from the Middle East, mainly from Turkey and Armenia. The Armenian Evangelical Community has established five young churches some of which are Turkish speaking in the following cities: Brussels (1991); Antwerp (2002); Laeken (2000); Hasselt (2001); and an Assyrian Evangelical Fellowship in Mechelen (2006).

Brazil has one of the oldest Evangelical churches in São Paulo established in 1927.

Bulgaria has four churches and two fellowships. The churches are located in Plovdiv (1922); Sofia (1933); Russe and Varna; and the fellowships are located in Sofia and Shumen.

Canada recently opened its doors to Syrian war refugees whose influx contributed to the growth of the Armenian Evangelical churches; in some cases the numbers more than doubled. There are four churches in different locations: Cambridge (1979), Montreal



Armenian Evangelical Church of Anjar.

has two churches established in 1960 and one Church in Toronto, established also in 1960.

Cyprus has the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship in Nicosia.

Egypt, which used to have two churches, has contracted to one in Alexandria, founded in 1920.

France has an extensive network of 13 churches, which have formed their own Union. Marseille has four churches: Saint Antoine (1927); Beaumont (1920); Saint Loup (1926); La Ciotat (1928); and the rest are in the following cities Alfortville (1930); Arnouville Les Gonesse (2000); Bourg-Lés-valence (1925); Decines (1929); Issy-Les-Moulineaux (1928); Lyon (1924); Montelimar (1920); Paris (1928) and Pont D'aubenas (1932). In addition, the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of France runs two camps, La Fontanelle and La Source, and a retirement home. The Union of France publishes Le Messager or Panper, as the official Union bilingual organ.

Georgia having large numbers of native Armenians has six churches. The oldest goes back to the 1880s, and is in Tbilisi. Akhalkalak has three churches established in 1994, 1999, and 2004 and one church in Akhalzke was established in 1993.

Germany has three very young churches in Eppingen (2008), Kehl (2010) and Stuttgart (2011).

Greece has one church in Kokkinia, established in 1922 and another church is about to open in Thessalonica where a large number of Eastern Armenians are located.

In Holland there are no established churches but through the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe, the AMAA supports missionary work among the Armenian Community and distributes Christian literature.

Iran, which had Armenian settlers from the time of Shah Abbas, has four churches one of which is the newly established Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Associate Church in the Tehran area. One of these churches dates back to 1876.

Iraq has one Armenian Evangelical church that is facing hard times because of the current war.

Lebanon has one church in Anjar and five in Beirut: Ashrafieh (1926); First Armenian Evangelical Church (1922); Nor Amanos (1967); Nor Marash (1934) and Syriac Evangelical Church in Sed-elbouchrieh (1966). The sixteen-year-long Civil War of Lebanon, as mentioned above, damaged all the churches physically and numerically; it left behind small congregations but the institutional, educational, publication and administrative structures are intact. It is worth noting that Chanasser, a biweekly, is published by the Near East Union.

Russia, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, presented great opportunity for evangelism. Large numbers of Armenians had settled in many cities that were in need of the Good News of the Gospel. The AMAA initiated efforts have resulted in the establishment of two churches; one in Moscow (1993), another in Sochi (1997), and a fellowship in Armavir.

Syria which was the first station for the survivors of the Genocide, has been in a catastrophic state of war for the past six years. The result has been damaged churches, schools and people. Many people have sought refuge in other countries near and far. The AMAA with its current leadership played an important role supporting those who desired to resettle in Armenia. Those who remained in Syria are struggling to survive and rebuild their lives. There are five churches in Aleppo: Bethel Church (1923); Emmanuel Church (1852); Martyrs' Church (1931); Church of Christ, which is a mission center (1924-25); and the Syriac Evangelical Church (1885). Damascus and Homs used to have small congregations.



The region of Kessab has four churches: Trinity Church of Kessab (1853); Church of Ekiz Olouk (1882); Church of Keorkunch (1855); and Church of Kaladouran (1855). This region has suffered terribly and all church buildings have been damaged. Through the diligent work of local leadership and the AMAA, the churches of Kessab, Kaladouran, and Keorkunch have been renovated and rededicated.

Turkey, where the Armenian Evangelical Church was born, has still standing the Holy Trinity Church founded in 1846 and the Gedik Pasha Church established in 1850. Both Churches have multiple Sunday services for Armenians and non-Armenian speaking communities of faith.

Uruguay has one church in Montevideo and an AMAA District Committee.

United States of America being a large country has one Union (The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America) with 25 Armenian Evangelical Churches and two fellowships; the churches are located in 11 States most of which are on the East and West coasts and a few are scattered in other States. The oldest of these churches dates to 1892 and the youngest to 2002. California has 14 churches and one fellowship (a congregation, which is in the process of becoming a church), Illinois one church, Massachusetts three churches, and one church, in each of the following States: Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Utah. Depending on the size of the Armenian community in a particular location, some of the churches have a large membership while others are small; most of them are financially self-sufficient and support the AMAA. This Union publishes the Forum whenever it can.

From this survey, it is obvious that the Armenian Evangelical presence in the Middle East is being eroded, due to the political strife and religious persecution by radical Muslim movements. The AMAA again faces challenges of refugees, poverty, and suffering. The helping hand of the AMAA continues to be necessary to alleviate the suffering of our people and to spread the Good News of hope around the world. It may be very significant for the future of the churches and institutions to develop a strategic plan rather than let events on the ground dictate the direction and future of the churches. Faith may be a valuable asset but so is rational planning.

To be concluded in the next issue



FOOTNOTE

11. Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Annual Report, 2015-2016, p.10

Rev. John Khanjian, Ph.D. is the past President of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon.

** The author is grateful to Louisa Janbazian for reviewing, proofreading and filling the lacuna in his information.*

Donor Event Applauds Founders & Supporters As AMAA Los Angeles Centennial Celebration Approaches

By Phyllis Hamo

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), enthusiastically MC-ed an Appreciation Dinner for supporters and contributors to the AMAA on Saturday, June 24, 2018 at the home of Ophthalmologist Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA President, and his wife Radiologist Dr. Ani Darakjian in La Canada, CA. Mr. Khanjian welcomed the guests and thanked them for their consistent endorsement of the highly respected missions organization.

Following Joseph Stein's invocation, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian welcomed the guests and pointed out that Centennial celebrations had already been held in Australia, Canada, Lebanon, New Jersey and France. He praised the founders, missionaries, and philanthropists who have brought success and strength to the organization. The Los Angeles Community anticipates the Centennial Celebration Banquet on the West Coast which will take place on October 20, 2018 at the classic and elegant Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.

The purpose of the AMAA is to serve the physical, spiritual, and educational needs of children and adults in its worldwide missions programs. To fulfill its missions, the organization maintains a broad range of ministries in 24 countries around the world. When the earthquake of 1988 struck Armenia, the AMAA rushed in to help and established medical, educational, and missions



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian welcomes guests to his home.

programs. The programs remained and are still expanding. Additional events leading up to the Centennial have included the Kick-Off Celebration honoring the Child and Orphan Care Committee in October 2016 at the L.A. Jonathan Club.

Mr. Khanjian displays passion for the AMAA with every effort he puts into his mission. The AMAA Centennial Capital Campaign goal of \$20 million is designed to fund Capital Projects, support Endowment Funds, and provide funds for the Operating Budget.

Music for the event, which raised over \$200,000 for the Centennial Campaign, was provided by Gagik Badalyan. □



Clockwise from middle L to R: Mary and Dr. John Kassabian, Elizabeth and Dr. Mihran Agbabian, Joyce and Joe Stein, Thelma and Kenneth Kevorkian and Michael and Any Barr.



Joe Stein offers the Invocation.



AMAA Celebrates its Centennial in Beirut

On Thursday evening, May 31, 2018, the Phoenicia Hotel in Beirut was the site of a Banquet to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Organized by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), the event brought together over 220 people, including Armenian Evangelical ministers from the U.S., Australia, Iraq, Syria and Egypt, Haigazian University Trustees, AMAA Board members, Bishop Shahe Panossian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Prelacy of Lebanon, a representative of the Armenian Catholic Church, the Ambassador of Armenia in Lebanon, the Mayor of Bourj Hammoud, heads of the three Armenian political parties in Lebanon, representatives of a variety of organizations and unions, and many guests.

The program opened with a welcome from the Vice-Chair of Haigazian University's Trustees John Sagherian, followed by the opening prayer offered by Rev. Nishan Bakalian.

AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian offered the Association's greetings. He recalled the importance of 1918 for the Armenian people, who barely survived the massacres, and who declared the independence of the first Armenian Republic. At the same time, in the United States, a group of Armenian Evangelicals was founding the AMAA to reach out to the decimated and demoralized survivors of the Genocide. The AMAA worked at rebuilding the educational institutions and churches of the Armenian people, and in 1988 continued that same effort in the Homeland, following the earthquake. As Dr. Darakjian put it, the year 2018 is a year to celebrate the Centennial of the rebirth of the Armenian people at every level. Mentioning the AMAA's work in the U.S., the Near East and Armenia through schools and universities, spiritual activities, camps, relief and social work, he pointed to all of these



as ways for children to know the great love of God. The newly-established Centennial Campaign is AMAA's way of preparing to meet the continuing challenges and opportunities in the future.

The guests were treated to the lovely voice of Central High School and Haigazian University graduate Alice Ipradjian, who sang, "Savior, Thy Dying Love" and "Doun im hayreni."

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, expressed how the AMAA was a part of the strengthening and rebuilding of Armenia following its 1991 independence, also extending to Artsakh (Karabagh) and the needs there. This multi-faceted service was rendered without complaint and without much fanfare, whether in Armenia or in the Middle East and other places of the Diaspora where Armenians had established themselves. The widow, the orphan, the ill, the adult and the elderly, all were recipients of the AMAA's work. For those suffering and struggling communities in places of unrest in the Middle East, the wounded or grieving in border villages in Armenia, the AMAA today strives not just to encourage, but to help them to develop and grow, through education and spiritual enlightenment. The Association's efforts to spread the Gospel in word and deed is founded on their conviction that the Christian faith has always been the key to the progress of the Armenian people in principles of honesty, accountability, transparency and responsibility.

As the crowd enjoyed dinner and conversation, guitarist Raffi Mandalian and his ensemble filled the banquet hall with an eclectic mix of adaptations of Armenian folk tunes along with jazz and popular standards.

The event included the presentation of a short documentary film, entitled "A Legacy of Faith, Love and Service," with testimonies and location footage of the worldwide scope of the AMAA's work.

Dr. Hasmig Baran, current Trustee Chair of Haigazian University, joined Mr. Khanjian to present the AMAA Award of Appreciation to outgoing HU Chair Dr. Ani Darakjian for her eight years of service which ended early this year. Dr. Darakjian was surprised and touched by this gesture and wished her successor the best.

Concluding the evening's program, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of the UAECNE, presented a plaque recognizing the



L to R: Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Zaven Khanjian, Joyce Philibosian Stein, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, Bishop Shahe Panossian (Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Lebanon), HE Samvel Mgrtchyan (Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon), and Rev. Haroutune Selimian.

pivotal role the AMAA has played in the Christian testimony of the churches in the Middle East. He offered a Benediction and prayer of thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon the church, after which AMAA and UAECNE heads gathered together to cut the anniversary cake.

These AMAA Centennial activities in Lebanon also had the aim to financially help Armenian Evangelical schools in Lebanon, and all funds received were designated for that purpose. In commemoration of the Centennial, each banquet attendee received a 112-page bilingual color booklet with detailed information on the rich history and current ministries of the AMAA.

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) organized a special Worship Service in thanks to God for the AMAA's 100th Anniversary, held on Sunday, June 3, 2018 at the First Armenian Evangelical Church in Beirut.

Present in the church sanctuary were representatives from His Holiness Aram I Catholicos, from Maronite Patriarch Rai, from the Arab Evangelical churches, from the Near East School of Theology, and from the Armenian Embassy in Lebanon, along with the Deputy Minister of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. Also attending were pastors and laypersons from the United States, Australia, Egypt, Iraq and Syria, along with many Lebanese Armenians.

Pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church Rev. Hrav Cholakian gave the call to worship and invited the congregation to sing the Doxology. Raffi Mnassa and Lilit Hovhannesian, eleventh-grade students from the Shamlan-Tatigian Armenian Evangelical Secondary School, read Psalm 96, after which a student chorus from the Armenian Evangelical School, conducted by Nectar Palazian, sang "Count Your Blessings," "Alleluia, Hallelujah" (in English) and "Abril Grgin," with Maria Parseghian accompanying on piano.

Greeting the worshippers on behalf of the UAECNE was Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Central Committee Chair, who noted that the AMAA's beneficent contribution is felt throughout the Union, in churches, schools and ministries, even though it does not always broadcast its work. He commended how the AMAA has looked beyond the pain of loss to the creation of means of moving beyond difficulties, relying on the power of Christ's Good News.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian described how the Christian message of salvation must also include following Christ's example of sacrifice, love, respect and caring. He paid homage to the heroic founders of the first Armenian Republic, as well as to the youth of Yerevan's Republic Square who engaged in a struggle for a brighter and more just Homeland without using force. Similarly, he lauded those in the Middle East who struggle for education, enlightenment and the preservation of human rights. In light of the AMAA's Centennial, praising God for His faithfulness,

he expressed the commitment to continue assisting the church in its multifaceted, historic mission.

The Armenian Evangelical "Armiss" Choir, directed by Rev. Nischan Bakalian and accompanied by Mathilde-Sandra Cholakian, sang "Yerginke Mer Asdgaghazart" (J. Khanjian/N. Balabanian), with a solo by Gacia Danaoghlian and flute by Laury Bilalian.

AMAA Board President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian employing Psalm 23 as a guide, described the founders of the AMAA, thousands of miles from their Homeland, turning their attention to the Armenian nation, a traumatized people wondering where their "Good Shepherd" and His "green pastures" were. Through the humanitarian work of many non-Armenians, as well as the AMAA, thousands of children in the Middle East were saved and had the opportunity to learn and grow, to worship and work. He described the mission of the church: to reach out beyond its borders and aid those affected by war, to help the refugee, rebuild the church, educate the young, and imprint Christ's love in their hearts.

The Gospel reading from Matthew 25:31-40 was read by Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshakian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia. The Armiss Choir sang Handel's "Great Lord God, Thy Kingdom Shall Endure."

Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of the UAECNE, preached the sermon on the "Unhindered Work of the Gospel." Only three years after the horrors of the Genocide, the Armenian people needed a helper. As one of those helpers, he stated that the AMAA presented God at work in Armenian history. "Yet," he continued, "there is an invisible and unknowable part of God's work, to which the scripture reading attests. The one who offers help to another cannot know the full effect the good we do will have in the years and generations to come; only God in His goodness can know that."

Following the congregational hymn, "When All Thy Mercies, O My God," Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Protestant Community of Syria, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the AMAA, beseeching God to give it the strength to continue its service in the Homeland and the Diaspora.

The Armiss Choir sang Gomidas' sharagan "Krisdos ee metch" and the Missirian's "Hayr Mer," and the service concluded with Rev. Karagoezian's Benediction. Having had this opportunity to reflect and offer gratitude to God for the AMAA, the worshippers departed with the challenge to commit themselves to continuing in faith and service in Christ's name. □



Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of UAECNE, presents a Commemorative Plaque to Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.



Ani Darakjian, M.D., former Chair of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University, decorated by the current Chair Hasmig Baran, Ed.D. on behalf of the AMAA.



AMAA Centennial Celebrations in Paris

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:1-2

The weekend of June 9 and 10, 2018 was memorable for the Armenian Evangelical Community of France. After celebrations in Sydney, Australia and Beirut, Lebanon, AMAA's Centenary was celebrated in Paris & Issy-les-Moulineaux. Four important activities were held during these 48 hours.

By Rev. Gilbert Léonian*

INTRODUCTIONS

On Saturday morning, June 9, AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian met with pastors and representatives of the ten churches of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of France, as well as the six organizations of the French Union—La Fontanelle Camp, La Source Camp, Hope for Armenia, Missions Committee, Panpere Quarterly and the Youth Organization.

Each pastor and/or representative, by means of a PowerPoint or video, presented the life and ministry of their churches and organizations. During these presentations, the representatives of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) were able to witness the rich, vital and diverse life of the French Union.

MEETING WITH THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF EUROPE

After 10 years of inactivity, the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe met on Saturday, June 9 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Issy-les-Moulineaux with the representatives of the AMAA Dr. Darakjian and Mr. Khanjian and delegates from France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Greece and Bulgaria. Only the representatives from Turkey were absent. The meeting was chaired by Rev. Gilbert Léonian, President of the Fellowship. After a short Scripture reading and a message, Rev. Léonian read the By-Laws of the Fellowship and emphasized the need to revive the Fellowship because of the great need to strengthen the ministry of the churches in Europe and to bring them into the Fellowship. Each representative presented the vision, activity and the needs of their countries and expressed a desire to revitalize the brotherly ties and cooperation of the Fellowship.

At the end of the meeting new members of the Board of the Fellowship were elected: Rev. Gilbert Léonian (France), President; Rev. Sarkis Pachaian (Belgium) and Rev. Bedros Altunian (Bulgaria), Vice Presidents; Rev. Vicken Cholakian (Greece), Secretary; and a representative of the AMAA as Treasurer. The Fellowship commissioned the Board members to study the needs of each country and make practical proposals to strengthen the ties and to intensify



Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe.

the cooperation so that the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ reached the Armenians in Europe. The Fellowship also decided to meet every other year starting in 2019.

BANQUET CELEBRATING AMAA CENTENNIAL AND 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX

Some 300 people including guests from the United States and pastors and Board members of the Churches of the French Union gathered in the Palace of Arts and Congress Hall of Issy-les-Moulineaux to celebrate these two important anniversaries.

Among the honorary guests were André Santini, Mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux, Bishop Vahan Hovhannesian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of France, Hovhannes Gevorgyan, Representative of the Republic of Artsakh in France, the Head Officer of the Armenia Embassy, and Etienne Lhermenault, Chairman of the National Council of Evangelicals of France.

In his opening remarks, Rev. Joël Mikaélian reminded the guests that the purpose of this gathering was to think about the meaning of life under the light of the Bible. Dr. Darakjian and



Mr. Khanjian then spoke about the history, the objectives and programs of the AMAA over 100 years in 24 countries of the Diaspora. The purpose of the AMAA, which was founded on June 7, 1918, was to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the survivors of the Genocide in 1915. Since the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, almost half of the AMAA budget has been allocated to the needs of Armenia and Artsakh.

The Mission of the AMAA was presented in a short documentary film entitled "A Legacy of Faith, Love and Service" which included testimonies and location footage of the scope of the AMAA's work worldwide. The 90-year history and testimony of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Issy-les-Moulineaux was also shown during a lively audio-visual presentation.

The guests enjoyed the beautiful voices of soloists Tamar Albarian and Gamil Guzunjian who sang Armenian, French and English songs.

At the end of the Banquet, the French Union presented a check in the amount of 10,000 euros to help rebuild the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo, Syria.

All the guests were impressed and amazed at the diver-

sity of the evening's program that was remarkable with both its affection and generosity.

A THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE



On Sunday June 10, a thanksgiving Worship Service was held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Issy-les-Moulineaux to celebrate the goodness and fidelity of God during the AMAA's 100 years and the 90 years of the Church of Issy-les-Moulineaux.

Rev. Joël Mikaélian, Pastor of the Church, presided over the Worship Service. The Armenian message was delivered by Rev. Gilbert Léonian and the French message by Rev. Ago Tchoghandjian, Moderator of the French Union. The Regional Choir, the Youth Praise and Worship Team and the Sunday School students led the musical portion of the Service and presented some songs with joy and enthusiasm.

The spouses of the former ministers of the Church as well as the spouses of the President and Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA were presented with bouquets of flowers, as a token of gratitude for their dedication and service.

At the end of the Worship Service, the Pastors of the French Union, Dr. Darakjian and Mr. Khanjian addressed the audience and shared their gratitude, exhortations and prayers.

The Worship Service concluded with the singing of the "Doxology" in Armenian.

After the traditional group photo, the guests were welcomed in the church gardens for a reception. There was joy on everyone's face from being part of an unforgettable weekend. □

* Original of the text in French. Translated into English by Louisa Janbazian.



Mayor André Santini greets the audience.



L to R: Rev Joël Mikaélian, Rev. Gilbert Léonian, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Zaven Khanjian.

AMERICAN ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

To Honor

STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN AND CONTE FOUNDATIONS

SHEEN FAMILY TRUST

GERALD AND PATRICIA TURPANJIAN, TF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

By Joyce Abdulian

Celebrating a Century of Faith, Love, and Service, the Centennial Celebration of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), founded in 1918 by a small group of pastors, will usher in a new era of outreach at a Banquet on October 20, 2018, at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. The goal of the world-wide Centennial Campaign has been to raise \$20,000,000. The AMAA will continue its level of commitment to its mission in education, orphan and childcare, Christian ministries, medical outreach, camps, and a range of social services impacting 24 countries world-wide — following our Lord's mandate; "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*"

Banquet Co-Chairs Lori Muncherian, Arsine Phillips, Helga Sarkis, and Tina Segel are pleased to announce Kenneth L. Khachigian as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. They welcome all to join in this landmark celebration. "The AMAA salutes its Centennial Celebration Honorees for their gracious, gallant and bountiful contributions to the century-old legacy of this organization," says Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.

Sheen Family Trust



John and Victoria Sheen.

John H. Sheen was born in Aintab, Cilicia (present day Turkey) to evangelical parents. Fleeing Turkey in 1913, he came to the East Coast of the United States with his mother and brother. His goal was to work hard and quickly bring his father and brother to America.

Sadly, both were killed during the Genocide of 1915. Working in a buttonhole factory, he became an expert in repairing the machinery—eventually opening his own small factory. Mr. Sheen married Victoria Basmajian and they had three children, Edward, Betty and Jack. Moving to Los Angeles in 1924, John began working in a church furniture manufacturing factory. Two years later he opened his own furniture manufacturing company—becoming the second largest manufacturer in California. He then ventured into the real estate business.

Mr. Sheen supported many charitable organizations, entrusting the AMAA with the greatest portion of his estate.

Camp Sheen-Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia has provided respite for disadvantaged children as they play in the summer sun, nourished both spiritually and physically through the legacy of the John H. Sheen Trust.

Under the direction of his father's trust, Dr. Jack Sheen is continuing the remarkable extent of Sheen philanthropy worldwide — encompassing education, relief aid in Armenia and Lebanon, evangelism, and aid for churches and missions. Nazareth E. Darakjian MD, President, Board of Directors of AMAA, notes, "The AMAA can rightfully boast of serving the Armenian Nation for a full century and can take its place next to other organizations that helped save the survivors of the Genocide by rebuilding their homes, schools and churches. We are carrying a torch that has been passed to us from our predecessors and we need to carry that torch and run with it to raise the AMAA to a higher level of mission and service for the wellbeing of our people and the glory of God."

Stephen Philibosian and Conte Foundations

Stephen Philibosian was born in Hadjin, Cilicia to evangelical parents. Moving with his family to historic Tarsus at age ten, he became quite accomplished as a tailor's apprentice. In 1909, at age 19, Stephen arrived in America with his prosperous uncle who had briefly returned to Tarsus from the United States. Soon after, he found himself employed in his uncle's Philadelphia Oriental Rug Emporium.



Stephen Philibosian.

use his wealth for the welfare of his countrymen—fulfilling a promise he had made to his mother. His passion to use his wealth for the welfare of his countrymen, was inspired by the sixth AMAA Executive Secretary, Rev. Puzant Kalfayan, who profoundly captivated Stephen with narratives about the grievous situation in Lebanon—thus beginning the 75-year trajectory of Philibosian philanthropy.

Sirpuhe Philibosian Conte also was born in Hadjin. She came to America as a child, later becoming a successful businesswoman herself. Stephen and Sirpuhe married and had two daughters, Joyce and Louise. In 1955 Mr. Philibosian co-founded Haigazian College (now University) in Beirut, Lebanon—a beacon of education in the Middle East. Sirpuhe later married John Conte. They founded The Sirpuhe and John Conte Foundation and donated funds for the Conte Hall in Haigazian University's restored landmark, the "Heritage Building." Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director shares—the AMAA "*has not become weary in doing good,*" and has reaped God's abundant blessings on its ministry for a full century."

Joyce Philibosian Stein, is a Trustee of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation. With husband Joe Stein at her side, Joyce, her sister Louise Danielian, daughters Tina Segel and Stephanie Landes, and grandson Stephen Danielian all continue the founder's significant work of philanthropy. Joyce is the national Co-Chair of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Fund. For 25 years, the Los Angeles Child and Orphan Care Children's Fashion Show has been a much-anticipated community event, raising millions of dollars that have significantly impacted the lives of marginalized orphans and children in Armenia and Artsakh. Joyce's devotion to one of the AMAA's jewels, Haigazian University, has been constant throughout the well-known challenges. Some of Joyce's multiple areas of outreach have included the Armenian Assembly, Salvation Army, Lark Musical Society, Virginia Waring International Piano Competition, Chair of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia 'Daisy Day' fund-raising Campaign with Honorary Chair, President Dwight Eisenhower and the Philadelphia Orchestra. As a 50-year volunteer/supporter of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Joyce has chaired various major fund-raisers. Joyce was the President of the Haigazian Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles for 20 years, where her many friendships in the art world, led to extremely successful community fund-raising events.



Sirpuhe and John Conte.

Mr. Turpanjian founded Pacific Sales Kitchen and Bath Centers. Prior to selling to Best Buy in 2006, Pacific Sales was the largest retailer of luxury kitchen and bath appliances and fixtures in the United States. He is currently the chairman and CEO of New Spark Holdings, Inc. and the president of the TFEF.

The Turpanjians support many philanthropic organizations including the Armenian Missionary Association of America, American University of Armenia, Armenian General Benevolent Union, University of Southern California, projects in Artsakh, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

As a supporter of the AMAA, TFEF has helped fund many projects; Haigazian University, Merdinian School, Camp Hankavan, AMAA child and orphan care, Artsakh and Syrian relief and Armenian Evangelical Central High School of Beirut, Gerald's alma mater.

AUA has received the Foundation's support for multiple projects including funding the School of Public Health, the Institute of Policy Analysis and the digitization of Western and Diaspora literature for the AUA Digital Library. In conjunction with those endeavors, Mr. Turpanjian is a member of AUA's Board of Trustees and has awarded over 2,400 university scholarships to students in Armenia. Through the Turpanjian Rural Development Program, along with AUA he has helped Armenian entrepreneurs create over 300 small businesses around the country.

TFEF supports various AGBU projects and initiatives including the Children's Center in Malatya, Armenia and AGBU Senior Dining Centers in Armenia.

A graduate of USC, Mr. Turpanjian established the first chair in Contemporary Armenian Studies and the Chair in Civil Society and Social Change at USC.

As a partner with the government of Artsakh, TFEF has built an elementary school, two high schools and has aided in the construction of a water system in which over 3,000 residents in the village of Hadrut now receive clean water daily.

The Foundation's support of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America includes the renovation of the ancient scriptorium in Harichavank, the establishment of the Turpanjian Theological Seminary and support of St. Leon Cathedral in Burbank, California.

In California, Torrance Memorial Medical Center has been gifted with support from TFEF including the Turpanjian Family Chapel and their support of the Occupational Rehabilitation Center.

The impact over the years of these esteemed Honorees cannot be adequately expressed in words. Hearts, minds, and souls have been immeasurably affected by their loving generosity.

For more information about the Centennial Banquet, please call Levon Filian 626-487-5878 or the AMAA Office 201-265-2607.



Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian.

Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian, TF Educational Foundation

The eldest of two Genocide survivors from Dikranagerd, Turkey, Gerald Turpanjian was born in Aleppo, Syria. He grew up in Beirut, Lebanon and immigrated to the United States to continue his education. He married Patricia Savoian and they had four children: Lori, Gary, Deanna and Paul. Founded in 2005 by Gerald and Patricia, the Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation (TFEF), is dedicated to furthering the progress of education in Armenia and the Diaspora.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian Visits Armenia



Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, traveled to Armenia May 21-28, 2018. During his visit, Mr. Khanjian had meetings with State and spiritual leaders of Armenia, AMAA and ECA management in Yerevan, AMAA staff in charge of the AMAA's Centennial celebrations in Armenia in September and visited AMAA offices in Spitak and Stepanavan.

Meeting at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin



Zaven and Sona Khanjian with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.

On May 21, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians received Mr. and Mrs. Khanjian in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The Catholicos and Mr. Khanjian spent time discussing issues of interest aiming at the strengthening of the relationship between the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Mother See of the Holy Etchmiadzin. Mr. Khanjian also spoke about AMAA's Centennial celebrations in Armenia in September and invited the Catholicos to share the historic moment.

Meeting with Families of Sponsored Children

Children's education and development have always been very important to the AMAA. Mr. Khanjian, his wife Sona, and AMAA Representative in Armenia Harout Nercessian spent time visiting families from the AMAA's Sponsored Children Program. In a very warm and friendly atmosphere, the 12 talented children from the Avetisyan family played musical instruments, sang songs, told stories and shared their dreams with their guests. They also visited the family of Samvel Mikaelyan, an Artsakh veteran. The Mikaelyan home filled the hearts of the guests with love.



Zaven and Sona Khanjian visit with the family of a sponsored child.

Spitak and Stepanavan

On May 23, Mr. Khanjian and Mr. Nercessian visited AMAA's Centers in Spitak and Stepanavan. In Spitak they met AMAA Representative Suren Makaryan and the office staff. They also met with the staff of AMAA's medical pharmacy in Spitak and learned of their current work and upcoming projects.

At the Stepanavan Center Mr. Khanjian and Mr. Nercessian visited the construction site of a new building. They also met with AMAA Representative Khachatur Khachatryan, as well as the Center's staff and volunteers. Accompanied by the Coordinator of the construction project Hakob Hovhannisyan, they received an update on the building's construction progress. Mr. Khanjian also had an opportunity to evaluate AMAA's services in Stepanavan.



Zaven Khanjian at the Spitak AMAA Center with AMAA Representative Suren Markaryan and an office staff member.

At both Centers Mr. Khanjian encouraged the staff and volunteers and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for their service and dedication.

Interview at Noyan-Tapan News Agency

On May 24, Reporter Gayane Akakelyan of the Noyan-Tapan News Agency conducted an interview with Mr. Khanjian. Mr. Khanjian spoke about the humanitarian programs of the AMAA in Armenia and Artsakh, and about the Centennial Celebrations of the Association in Armenia in September.

"The Angel of Salvation"



That same evening Mr. and Mrs. Khanjian attended "The Angel of Salvation," a play presented by the "Hayasa" theatrical group of the AMAA and Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA). Held in the AMAA/ECA Hall, the play was devoted to the memory of Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian, who rescued thousands of orphans and widows in Aleppo during post Genocide years and died at a young age for the salvation of the Armenian nation. After the play, Mr. Khanjian said "This year we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the AMAA which was founded by pious ministers like Rev. Eskijian and by laymen, who had a big treasure in their hearts. We, who were born in Aleppo, Syria, are the children of those who survived thanks to Rev. Eskijian, Today, we also remember Rev. Aharon Shirajian, who too saved thousands of children who became the forefathers of many Armenians." Mr. Khanjian also thanked Nune Abrahamyan, the scriptwriter and the Director of the Play and the actors for a superb presentation, and the audience who honored the AMAA with their presence.

"The Angel of Salvation" was performed three times to a capacity audience. Among the attendees were many guests from social and international organizations and various church communities.

"Hayastan" All Armenia Fund

On May 25 and 26, Mr. Khanjian attended the meeting of the "Hayastan" All Armenia Fund Board of Trustees. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, RA President Armen Sarkissian, Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians, and Ara Babloyan, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.



The Chair of the BOT of HAAF, RA President Armen Sarkissian, conducted the meeting. After the blessing by the Catholicos Karekin II, the President acknowledged the 100th Anniversary of the first Republic of Armenia and the heroic battles of May 1918, followed by speeches delivered by Prime Minister Pashinyan and Artsakh President Sahakyan.

During the session, Mr. Khanjian addressed the BOT. His remarks were echoed by President Sarkissian. Mr. Khanjian's remarks can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2sKO61r>.

Mr. Khanjian had an opportunity to speak with President Sarkissian. During the conversation, Mr. Khanjian presented the general activities of AMAA's mission and service in Armenia, in Arstakh and in other countries around the world. He also briefed the President about the AMAA's Centennial Celebrations in Armenia and invited the President to attend AMAA's activities during the Centennial Anniversary events. Formal invitations will follow.

During the meeting, Mr. Khanjian also spoke with Prime Minister Pashinyan congratulating the people of Armenia and wishing them well in achieving the goals of the 'velvet revolution.'

Conference Dedicated to Armenia 100

On May 25 and 26, the RA Ministry of Diaspora, the RA National Academy of Sciences and Yerevan State University held "The Republic of Armenia 100" International Conference on the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Armenia. Mr. Khanjian participated in the closing sessions of the Conference on May 26.

Sunday, May 27 Worship Service

On May 27, Mr. and Mrs. Khanjian attended the Sunday Worship Service of the Evangelical Church of Armenia, where he shared an AMAA message with the congregation. In the afternoon, Mr. Khanjian met with General Major Arkadi Ter-Tadevosyan, the leader of "Harsanik Lernerum" liberation battle during the Shushi war.

'A Century of Victories' Celebration

On May 28, Mr. Khanjian, along with a delegation from the Evangelical Church of Armenia, attended the 100th Anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia, which was celebrated at the Sardarabad Memorial. They also participated in the "Haghtanakee Dar" Celebration which was dedicated to the Centennial of the First Republic of Armenia and the heroic fighting of May 1918.

During his weeklong stay in Armenia, Mr. Khanjian held several other meetings covering the work of the AMAA in Armenia. □

C E N T E N N I A L

CAPITAL CAMPA



Liana (second from right)



A Season for

One of the important projects that Armenia has had for many years is the Summer Camp Program. It is held in the Middle East, Europe and the United States. The camps are designed to share the love of Jesus with children in practical ways -- learning, enhancing their talents, making new friends and being nourished in a atmosphere of tender loving care.

The Summer Camp Program in Armenia started in 1991 at the end of the Communism era. A team of Armenian Evangelicals from France participated in a government-organized camp in Dzaghgatzor. This was the first Christian Camp Program in a former Communist Armenia camp.

During the summer of 1991, volunteers from Canada and other countries were sent to Armenia by the AMAA to organize Day Camps in different locations in cooperation with local Evangelical churches.

The following year, in 1992, the AMAA organized its own camps in Armenia and Artsakh in rented facilities for hundred of children, youth and young adults. Volunteers from France, Canada and the Middle East helped plan, organize and execute these camps.

Lifelong

In 2003 the AMAA acquired two camp sites (Camp Sheen-Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia and Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Artsakh). With the collaboration of the Evangelical Church of Armenia, in addition to these two camps, the AMAA also operates over 35 Day Camps in regions throughout the Homeland. These camps are pivotal for the strengthening of the Evangelical Church of Armenia. Scores of lives are changed, and many Evangelical Christian workers track their spiritual roots to those camps.

Liana Nikolyan, a current Camp Counselor at Camp Sheen-Shoghig in Hankavan, was a camper as a teenager. "When I first came to the Camp, I was still a teenager," says Liana. "Looking at my Camp counselors, in my heart I had a great desire to be a leader like them in the camp and bring my small contribution with my service." Not many years passed, and Liana's dream has come true. Today she serves in a children's camp. "This service is very important to me because I can help children with my knowledge and personal example," says Liana.

Arsen Martirosyan comes from a large family of 3 children, father, mother, grandfather and grandmother. He attends the Gyumri "Shogh" Center and receives support for his special needs. This is the third year that Arsen is attending the Sheen-Shoghig Camp in Hankavan. "Despite being a hyperactive child, Arsen listens attentively to all the Biblical teachings"

IGN

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Growing

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said his Camp group leader. "I witnessed Arsen's change day-by-day. He doesn't argue with friends anymore and shares what he has with them." Arsen loves his Camp leaders very much. "They are very caring and are ready to help us all in all matters," says Arsen. "When I go home, I'll miss my Camp and all the Camp leaders. I will look forward to next summer when I will be able to see my friends, leaders, and most importantly, learn more about Jesus."

Christine Mkrtchyan is in the AMAA's Sponsorship Program in Gyumri, Armenia which has been supporting Christine and her family for several years. Christine participates in most of the AMAA's Children's Programs. It has been two years since she began attending the Summer Camp Program in Sheen-Shoghig Camp in Hankavan. Christine is an active, energetic and friendly child who participates in the Camp programs with great enthusiasm. "I like participating in the games a lot and I also like the programs and performances that are presented in the Assembly Hall," says Christine. "The performances are funny, but also educational. One can learn a lot from them. I wish the camp days were longer. I will definitely be back to Sheen-Shoghig Camp next year."

Through the kindness and generosity of our donors, the AMAA will continue this most important ministry for Armenia's new generation.



Arsen



Christine



A Decade of Service Helping the People of Armenia

By Lara Tovmassian Ingalls

Every year, a new team of faithful servants form into the AMAA Armenia Medical Mission Team to bring medicine and hope to the people of Armenia. And every year, God uses the unique skills of every person on that team to meet the needs of His beloved children.

This year's trip was a special one, as it marked the 10-year anniversary of this annual ministry. On June 21, our team of 41 volunteers from around the United States began their journey to Armenia. When we finally arrived at the Yerevan airport the next day, we were filled with anticipation for the days to come.

We spent our first weekend in Yerevan, learning and honoring the history of the beautiful country we would be serving. From visiting Mother Armenia to laying carnations by the Armenian Genocide Memorial, to hearing heavenly *Sharagans* sung by a choir echoing throughout Geghard Monastery, we couldn't help but appreciate the rich heritage of the Armenian people. This was the perfect preparation for the week of service ahead.

Dr. Al and Sue Phillips decided that this year we would attempt to make a greater impact in Armenia by having not one, but two clinic teams. Our team was divided into two groups: one group would travel north to Vanadzor and Stepanavan where they have gone every year and the other would travel south to Sisian. The northern team included 4 physicians, two dentists, 1 pharmacist and 2 nurses. The southern team included 3 physicians, 2 pharmacists and 2 nurses. And both teams had a willing group of ancillary workers eager to serve the Armenian people.

We began the week setting up a complete ambulatory clinic within the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Vanadzor. The clinic provided a laboratory and diagnostic testing with an ultrasound and EKG machine. Since the first day of clinic is known to be the most challenging, both physically and emotionally, the entire team served together in Vanadzor on day one. The next day, the southern team traveled to Sisian while our northern team served two more days in Vanadzor before traveling to Stepanavan.

During our clinic week, we saw and treated 1,027 patients and filled approximately 2,500 prescriptions. In addition, more than 350 children received oral examinations, fluoride dental treatments, instructions on how to take care of their teeth, and a bag of goodies

which included a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss. Patients attended church services that were held by local ministers between the morning and afternoon clinics, and each physician team prayed with the patients they served.

To all of you who prayed for our Medical Mission before and during the trip, thank you for your incredible support. God showed up in amazing ways over the course of the week and we believe that your prayers played a big part in that. We are thankful for the support of the Armenian Missionary Association of America which allowed us to distribute free medication and supplies to hundreds of Armenians. Because of the generosity of friends like you, we made an indelible impact on both the physical and spiritual needs of those we served. Please consider joining the team next year if you feel led to serve God in Armenia. Regardless of your professional background, God will use you to bless others through this ministry. To learn more, please visit amaa.org. □



Building Bridges:

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School of Watertown, MA and Avedisian School of Yerevan

By Jeanmarie Papelian*

Malatia-Sebastia, colloquially known as Bangladesh, is one of the most densely populated districts of Yerevan. Although the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) has helped transform the landscape by greening various community sites and 6 parks there, the district is comparatively dry. Ask any Bangladeshtsi and they'll tell you they live in the Sahara. One of the most loved parks in the district, where ATP has planted trees, is named after General Andranik. A statue of him and his green army of trees welcome all visitors. It is a favorite spot especially for "babigs" and "dadigs" who enjoy rounds of backgammon in the shade and strolling with their grandkids.

Another landmark which has brought new life and the sense of a new era to the district is The Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School which was founded by the Armenian Missionary Association of America. With funding from Edward and Pamela Avedisian, the building opened in 2014 and became the first LEED-certified school in Armenia and the Caucasus. The campus, which is equipped with sports facilities, innovative labs, a community center and green roofs, stands out almost like a beacon in a crowd of Soviet era buildings.

ATP's Environmental Education program was brought to the students of the School starting in 2007. With classes on various environmental topics, workshops, nursery visits and seminars for teachers, ATP and Avedisian School have formed a strong partnership over the years. Starting in 2017, Avedisian School has been paired with St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School of Watertown, MA as part of the ATP's Building Bridges program.

"The Avedisian School takes the approach of providing a Holistic Education for its students and we are especially pleased that ATP has selected and is joining us in providing more than just 'reading, writing, and arithmetic,' for our students in order to have them best prepared for the challenges of today and the future," stated Mr. Avedisian.

The goal of Building Bridges is to connect Diaspora students with their environmental and cultural heritage and with their counterparts in Armenia. ATP reaches out to schools like Avedisian and St. Stephen's to help make strong connections and works with the administration, parents and students to implement environmental education in the participating schools.

For the past two summers, the 5th graders of St. Stephen's have been paired with the 6th graders of Avedisian School for their trip to Armenia. The students spend an afternoon together, usually learning about Armenia's trees and eventually planting them. They pay a visit to ATP's Ohanian Center for Environmental Education and tour the tree nursery in Karin village.

In 2018 the St. Stephen's group was given a tour of Valdivian School and, after a round of introductions and a game of chess, the children planted trees together in Bash Aparan, as part of the plantings dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the historic battle.



Students relax after planting trees in Bash Aparan.



Students participate in a round of Chess at Avedisian School.

"I can usually tell they're interested by the flood of questions they ask," said Nvard Gevorgyan, ATP's Environmental Education Trainer. "Certainly, they're curious about the planting process and forests in Armenia but what excites them the most is finding out the interests of their peers who live on the other side of the planet."

ATP gives them a chance to do just that. Prior to meeting, the students are given time to get to know one another online - via video conference calls. To narrow the gap of cultural differences and establish long-lasting bonds, ATP includes various icebreaking games and activities in the program for the children during their short stay. At the end of the day the students exchange contact information and promise to keep in touch.

"The students always get super excited before meeting the visiting School and it's a great motivator for them throughout the year," said Christine Gevorgyan who teaches Geography at Avedisian School and works with the School's environmental programs. "The atmosphere is always very warm and positive with these groups. Some of the students from last year actually met up in the evening in Yerevan to spend more time together. They're still in touch!" □

* Jeanmarie Papelian is the Executive Director of Armenia Tree Project.

Avedisian School Bids Farewell to its Second Class of Graduates

Saturday, June 16 was Graduation Day for the AMAA's Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Yerevan. The 12th grade-graduating students bid farewell to their beloved School on their way to new opportunities and phases in their lives.

Commencement Day is a great event in the life of the Avedisian School, when the School welcomes its Benefactors Edward and Pamela Avedisian, friends, supporters, representatives of international organizations, School Board members, journalists and numerous guests from abroad. This year, among the guests were the Republic of Armenia's newly appointed Minister of Education and Science Arayik Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister Hovhannes Hovhannissyan and Head of General Education Department of Yerevan Municipality Anna Stepanyan.

The Keynote Speaker was the famous historian Taner Akcam, one of the first Turkish scholars to recognize and publicly condemn the Armenian Genocide. In his welcoming words, Mr. Akcam urged the students to be courageous and innovative, to have their own views and defend them if necessary, and to fight against injustices.

Before handing out the graduation diplomas, Benefactors Edward and Pamela Avedisian, AMAA Representative in Armenia Harout Nercessian, and School Principal Melanya Geghamyan congratulated the graduates and wished them success in their future endeavors.

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2018 graduates of the Avedisian School. □



The graduates with Historian Taner Akcam and School Benefactors Edward and Pamela Avedisian.



Edward Avedisian greets the guests.



Keynote speaker Taner Akcam.



Principal Melanya Geghamyan escorts RA Minister of Education and Science Arayik Harutyunyan.

C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School Holds Year-End Programs and Commencement Exercises

By Louisa Janbazian

The C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School successfully completed its 36th academic year in June with Year-End Programs and Graduation Ceremonies.

The Commencement Exercises of the Elementary and Middle Sections were held on Saturday, June 9, 2018 in the Aram and Anahis D. Boolghoorjian Hall of the School. After the National Anthems and Invocation offered by Rev. Serop Megerditchian, Ministry Coordinator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (currently the Senior Pastor of Cilicia Armenian Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA), the graduates of the Elementary section presented a program of recitations and songs, followed by the presentation of their diplomas. The salutatorians of the Elementary section graduates were Evelina Aharonian and Austin Yeghishian, and the Valedictorian was Abigail Chatalyan.

On behalf of the School Board, Chairman Dr. Vahe Nalbandian praised God for another successful year and expressed his gratitude to the staff, parents and Board members, who had worked tirelessly throughout the year in pursuit of excellence at Merdinian School. Addressing the students he said, "Your teachers have worked very hard to provide you with the best education they can. What your parents and teachers expect of you, in return, is that you try your best in whatever you do and, most importantly, behave responsibly. In addition to hard work, perseverance is another key ingredient for your success."

In his keynote message, Rev. Megerditchian addressing the parents said, "Your children are your treasures. Invest in them by providing an Armenian-Christian education." And addressing the students he said, "You are the pride of the Merdinian School, your parents, your Church and the entire Armenian Nation. Safeguard and treasure your forefathers' Christian faith, their national identity and their golden Armenian language." Concluding his message and quoting from the Ալյոթի Չաւկավասոն (Unsilenced Steeple) of the great Armenian Poet Baruyr Sevag, he said, "Be that Unsilenced Steeple, which always rings **Armenian School, Christ Centered faith of the Armenian nation, patriotism and humanitarianism.**"

Following Rev. Megerditchian's message, the 8th graders presented a program of recitations and patriotic songs. Salutatorians of the Middle School graduates were Nicole Tilkan and Ani Kosoyan and the Valedictorians were Marianna Dzhuryan and Ani Karajayan.

Following the presentation of diplomas and awards, Principal Lina Arslanian congratulated all the graduates and said, "At the core of a successful educational or career experience are the virtues of integrity, responsibility, diligence, determination, and perseverance. Make the right choices for yourselves so you stay focused on your



Rev. Serop Megerditchian offers the Invocation.

goals and face challenges as they come your way. Most of all, Look up to God. Praise Him and thank Him for all of His wonderful blessings. Keep God in mind in every event of your life so He can guide you, teach you, fill you with His power, protect you, and lead you forward."

The Graduation Ceremony concluded with a Benediction offered by Rev. Megerditchian.

On Saturday, June 2, the kindergarten class held its own Graduation Ceremony. A class of twenty-four students graduated from kindergarten. Harut Khachatryan, Pastor of Christian Education at United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles offered the Invocation and the Benediction as well as shared a short message with the graduates and their parents based on the Book of Proverbs Chapter 2. "My Children, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, and if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." (Verses 1-5). Before receiving their diplomas, the graduating students presented a beautiful program of songs, recitations, and dances.

Established in 1982, the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School is the only Armenian Evangelical School in the United States. The School offers a broad-based curriculum that fosters academic excellence, high moral values, and spiritual enrichment in the Armenian Evangelical tradition. The School strives to create a safe and nurturing environment where every student receives personal attention to become a successful and responsible individual. Beginning with the next academic year, Merdinian School will start offering Armenian language instruction in both the Eastern and Western Armenian dialects. For more information you may contact Principal Arslanian at 818.907.8149. □

My Invincible Team

By Zaven Atakhanian*

I love the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Personally, I would change the word “village” to “team.” The team concept is one that’s continually emphasized in my life because of my participation in multiple basketball leagues. It is through basketball that I’ve learned about the *value* of teamwork. Successful teams are a collection of *individuals* working together as a single unit with a common goal. In numerous areas of my life, the Armenian Community acts as a team that encourages my personal and spiritual growth. The members of this community are indispensable to me and I feel fortunate to be a part of it. A great deal of what I am today was shaped by my interactions with the coaches, teachers, mentors, and family members who make up the core of my Armenian team.

As previously stated, I participate in several basketball leagues including Hoop Heaven and Hillsdale Recreation. However, it’s through my Armenian Church Sports Association (ACSA) basketball team that I met the coach who left the greatest impression on me. I was a player for Coach Mark on ACSA for two years. Coach Mark believed in my potential and taught me the value of hard work which made me a better player. Coach Mark’s passion for the game was contagious. Under his leadership our team had an undefeated season and every player on the team contributed to what ultimately resulted *in* a league championship. Coach Mark understood that struggles on the basketball court (missing shots or committing turnovers) reflects our struggles in life. His philosophy was that everything was a learning experience, and as long as you kept trying there is no such thing as failure. He might have been strict with his players, but each player was privileged to learn about the sacrifices it takes to win. I cherished the time I had as a player for Coach Mark who sadly passed away last year of heart failure. Coach Mark is remembered for so much more than his basketball IQ. I carry his inspiration and guidance with me every time I step on the court. He personified what it means when individuals act selflessly for the benefit of the team.

I have been involved with the Hamazkayin Nayiri Dance Ensemble for ten years and have performed on stage with many well-known Armenian artists. During my time in this great ensemble one person has left a profound mark on my life: my instructor Mr. Tovmas. Through Mr. Tovmas’ instruction I learned to appreciate how dance is a unique way to express myself. Mr. Tovmas never let me get discouraged. He helped me persevere especially during those times when I wanted to quit. Three years ago, Mr. Tovmas succumbed to cancer. I felt so disheartened. Mr. Tovmas’ legacy will live forever because so many students were blessed to encounter such a humble and talented man who taught by example. He taught me not only dance, but also discipline and patience. I learned that dancing is not just a casual art form. Through dance I gained the confidence to perform in front of an audience. Mr. Tovmas lit a candle for his students that can never be extinguished.

When I was in eighth grade I had the privilege of visiting our Motherland Armenia. My Kindergarten to 2nd Grade teacher Mrs. Mesrobian made this possible. For the last eighteen years Mrs. Mesrobian has travelled to Armenia with the graduating class of the Hovnanian School. Thanks to teachers like Mrs. Mesrobian, my time as a student at Hovnanian felt like being in a second home. I made many friends there and everyone knew each other by name. The teachers were instrumental to my early learning and taught me about my culture: the immense pride that I have *in* Armenian history was forged here. Mrs. Mesrobian has been a mainstay at the Hovnanian School for decades and she has the admiration, trust, and respect of students, faculty and parents. She coordinated a trip that meant so much more to me than just a “vacation” with friends. She was responsible for arranging visits to historical sights that highlighted our history and culture. Under Mrs. Mesrobian’s supervision, students participated in community service (by helping to plant trees) and learned about technological innovations at the Tumo Center. Throughout the entire trip Mrs. Mesrobian was the glue that kept the entire class together. Thanks to her dedication I will never forget that experience.

From the time I was young, Sunday School has been an integral part of my life. When I was younger (elementary school age) attending Sunday School classes was not something I often looked forward to. I would have rather slept in late. Things changed as I got older, however, when I met Pastor Astor. As his student for two years, I gained a deeper understanding of the meaning of faith. Pastor Astor always made himself available to speak with students after classes were over. Pastor Astor’s influence got me interested in joining a Bible Study group at my current high school. This group allows me the opportunity to talk about God



with other classmates. Although Pastor Astor is not part of this group (he now makes his home in Los Angeles) his voice still reverberates in my head whenever we discuss how best to serve God. I might get the opportunity to see Pastor Astor this year during Summer camp. I consider that a privilege because Pastor Astor is so much more than just a spiritual leader. He is a great listener, and someone one can truly confide in. He has an engaging personality and as such, students might find him hanging out with them during free time, he even makes appearances on the basketball court.

The seeds of my upbringing were planted at home. I want to acknowledge the priceless guidance and support that my family has given me while growing up. My parents have assumed an enormous role concerning my personal development. They encourage me to participate in social events and motivate me to explore things outside my comfort zone. My parents give me unconditional support through all my endeavors. This unyielding support is something I appreciate and don't take for granted. On the stage, in the classroom, or on the basketball court, all my parents ask of me is to give it my all. I also don't want to neglect how significant it is to have three siblings (two brothers and a sister) to share my life with. I am very lucky to have my older brother Vahan in my life. He is a mentor, helps me academically, and always gives me sound advice. Vahan and I relish friendly competition, and we express this intensely through playing one-on-one basketball and video games. Vahan is currently a sophomore in college, he could not be a better role model. My immediate family and extended family provide a crucial support network for me.

That "Village" or "Team" which is necessary for fostering the development of its children prospers when its members have strong personal attributes. These traits are found within the Armenian community at large and create a sense of pride and purpose. As a part of that Armenian community I feel like I'm part of a winning team. I am surrounded by these "Team leaders" through my engagement in academics, athletics, and the arts. The influence of significant figures such as Coach Mark, Mr. Tovmas, Mrs. Mesrobian, Pastor Astor, my family and others is immeasurable. I embrace everything they taught me and look forward to passing these important lessons along one day so others can benefit from them. □

* Zaven Atakhanian is the AMAA's High School level James Jameson Essay contest winner 2017-18. Zaven is an energetic, fun and friendly 16 year old attending Pascack Valley High School in Hillsdale, NJ.



AMAA Awards Scholarships to Needy and Deserving Students

For the academic year 2018-2019, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) awarded \$225,000.00 in direct scholarship grants to college students. Eighty-five worthy students, who attend colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, received scholarships. The AMAA Scholarship Committee is attentively and tirelessly chaired by Robert Hekemian, Jr.

In addition, over \$27,000 was assigned as tuition assistance to 137 deserving students in Armenia.

For over 45 years, the AMAA has helped thousands of college students with scholarships, thus helping them prepare for the future and relieving the financial burden that makes it harder to focus on their work. Moreover, since its inception, the AMAA has helped thousands of students from kindergarten to high school with tuition aid. The AMAA also provides financial aid to schools and institutions of higher education in the Near East, including Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology in Beirut.

The scholarships granted this year were provided from several AMAA scholarship funds established over the years to help students in need. Students may request applications from AMAA headquarters in Paramus, NJ beginning in January of each year. The deadline to submit applications for the 2019-2020 academic year is May 1, 2019.

AEUNA Concert Celebrates AMAA's Centennial and Armenian Evangelical Church's 172nd Anniversary

A beautiful afternoon concert was a fitting conclusion to the AEUNA's (Armenian Evangelical Union of North America) 24th Biennial Assembly. Held on Sunday, July 1, 2018 at United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA, the concert celebrated the 172nd Anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the AMAA's Centennial year.

A special commemorative concert booklet contained a message from the Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djambazian about the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the AMAA. It also included messages of appreciation and congratulations from AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian. The commemorative booklet also featured a list of the AEUNA's current churches and programs and a brief overview of the AMAA's mission projects. □



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian expresses his appreciation for a superb concert.

AEUNA Holds 24th Biennial Assembly June 28 - July 1 in California

Armenian Evangelicals came from across the United States, Canada and South America to Burbank, CA for the 24th Biennial Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and the 21st Convention of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship. Participants attended special seminars led by Armenian Evangelicals and by Brad Dacus, Esq.

They listened to a series of talks by noted Theologian Dr. J.P. Moreland and were inspired by missions experiences shared by AEUNA Pastors Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Rev. Georges Dabbo and Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djambazian. Two Armenian Evangelical churches, one from Montevideo, Uruguay and the other from Buenos Aires, Argentina, were welcomed into the Union. All who attended enjoyed a Gala Banquet and a special Sunday Worship Service. □



UAECNE Holds 72nd Assembly in KCHAG

The 72nd Annual Assembly of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) was held in KCHAG, Lebanon with 32 voting and 20 non-voting members participating. The theme of the Assembly was "The Role of the Church in the Selection and Preparation of its Leadership."

The Opening Worship Service was held at the Nor Marash Armenian Evangelical Church on Sunday, July 1, 2018, a day that coincided with the date of the birth of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Constantinople in 1846. President of the UAECNE Rev. Megerditch Karagoezian delivered the sermon and focused on II Timothy 2:2 "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

The three-day meetings were held at the Chapel of KCHAG. The business meetings discussed such critical topics as the conditions of the UAECNE congregations, schools, and ministries where hardships as well as blessings are experienced. A spirit of thankfulness surrounded all as they heard stories and examples of Christian dedication and service. Representatives from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Greece, and Australia had times of prayer, fellowship and discussion. Utmost in importance was the role of education in the preparation of the future leadership of the church. This topic was especially discussed after a talk by Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D. and with the participation of the principals of the five Armenian Evangelical schools in Lebanon. The Assembly received the narrative



and financial reports of the President, the Central Committee and the various councils and committees of the Union, including those that had to do with the Armenian Evangelical contributions to social and relief work. Letters of greeting from the AMAA and other Armenian Evangelical and international bodies were read with appreciation.

The Assembly elected new members of the Central Committee and closed its sessions with a Worship Service led by Rev. Nishan Bakalian and a sermon by Rev. Haroutune Selimian. UAECNE President Rev. Karagoezian dismissed the Assembly with a prayer of dedication and words of thanks. □

AMAA President and Executive Director/CEO Pay a Courtesy Visit to Catholicos Aram I

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, and AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian paid a courtesy visit to Catholicos Aram I, at the Holy See of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. Welcoming the guests, the Catholicos reiterated his formal congratulations on the occasion of AMAA's Centennial celebrations, currently taking place in Lebanon and spoke highly of AMAA's vast contributions in promoting the physical and spiritual welfare of the Armenian people in the past century. The AMAA President and Executive Director/CEO thanked the Catholicos for his courageous stance and leadership role upholding the faith and protecting the interests of the Armenian people.





PHOTO CREDIT: NISHAN NALICHAYAN

For two weeks in late June-July the nation's capital celebrated Armenia's culture in a unique manifestation never seen before.

The 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival featuring Armenia: Creating Home, showcased Armenia's culture, food, art, music and wine. The Exhibition and Festival were visited by more than a million admirers who were introduced to Armenia's rich cultural heritage. Among the dignitaries attending the opening ceremonies was the Honorable Dr. Armen Sarkissian, President of the Republic of Armenia. The AMAA, a proud sponsor of the event, thanks the Smithsonian Institution and the Folklife Festival Director Sabrina Lynn Motely for this remarkable historic event, a symbol of shared values and friendly relationship between the two countries.

Pictured above and representing the AMAA are Joe and Joyce Stein greeting President of Armenia, Dr. Armen Sarkissian at the official opening night of the Festival. □



On June 25, 2018, the family of Krikor (Greg) Hakimian gathered to dedicate a memorial installation at Camp AREV in his honor as one of the founders of the Camp.

Camp AREV Committee Chair Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian and Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djambazian led the dedication service and Camp AREV Director Rev. Razmig Minassian led the group in singing Krikor's favorite hymn.

Three matching concrete benches are now installed on the east side of Darakjian Chapel; the center bench has the pictured inscription. This beautiful and useful addition to Camp AREV was funded by his family and by donations to the Krikor Hakimian Memorial Fund. □

AMAA Supported Family Camps/Retreats in Belgium Continue to be a Blessing to Participants



The Armenian Evangelical Church of Belgium, organized two Family Camp/Retreats in the month of June.

The Camp/Retreat for Turkish speaking Armenians was held on June 15-17 for over 100 participants. The main speaker at the Camp was Pastor Carlos Mardigel who serves in Turkey as a missionary.

The Second Camp/Retreat for Armenian speaking families was held on June 22-24. The speaker was Rev. Gilbert Léonian from France. □

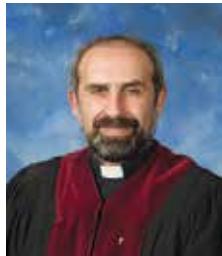
Rev. Serop Megerditchian Elected New Senior Pastor of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena

The Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA elected Rev. Serop Megerditchian to serve as the new Senior Pastor of the Church beginning July 1, 2018.

Rev. Megerditchian, previously served as Ministry Coordinator at the AEUNA (Feb. 2018 - June 2018), Senior Pastor of Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Canada (2016-2017), Senior Pastor of Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church, Aleppo, Syria (1997-2015), and Senior Pastor of Armenian Evangelical Holy Trinity Church, Kessab, Syria (1995-1997).

Rev. Megerditchian, received his M. Div. from the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, in 1995 and was ordained by the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, in 1999.

The Installation Service of Rev. Megerditchian will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 5:00 pm. A Reception will follow the Installation Service at the Church's Derian Hall. □



AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian and his wife Liliana (left) visited Dr. Jack and Anitra Sheen. The Sheen family has been a strong supporter of the AMAA for over 40 years.

Haigazian University Board Holds Spring Meeting



The Board of Trustees of Haigazian University held its Spring Meeting in Beirut on June 1-2 immediately following the AMAA's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Banquet and International Conference of the Armenian Diaspora Research Center.

The meeting was an occasion to discuss various progress reports about the academic programs, the budget, the establishment of a Development Office on campus, renovation projects and the University's future plans. In addition to the formal meetings, the Board members had an opportunity to hear student testimonials about university life and to socialize with the wider community.

Members of the Board renewed their commitment toward the critical mission of Haigazian University and expressed their pride in being involved in the oversight of this unique institution of the Armenian Diaspora. □

Going Green(er)! Annual Acknowledgment Mailings

In an effort to reduce costs and in keeping with our efforts to "go green and save," the AMAA will discontinue mailing receipt acknowledgments for each contribution as of January 1, 2019. Rather than receiving an individual acknowledgment for each contribution, donors will receive an annual summary in January for the prior calendar year which outlines all donations, gifts and contributions made to the AMAA. This change is an extension of the AMAA's' effort to reduce mailings and the related costs while encouraging efficient, cost-effective processes. It is a practice adopted by many other organizations. The elimination of this routine mailing will save the AMAA thousands of dollars annually. Monies saved remain in the AMAA general fund and will be used to fund the many AMAA programs around the world. Donors are encouraged to log in to their DonorShops account (<http://amaa.donorshops.com/>) and review their account, make updates and view their giving history with the AMAA. If you need assistance with your DonorShops account, please do not hesitate to contact the AMAA office in Paramus at 201.265.2607.

AMAA Sundays Celebrated in AEUNA Churches

The AMAA works closely with the churches of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) at all levels in Christian Ministry. It makes every effort to visit the Armenian Evangelical Churches of North America, and attend and participate in their Biennial meetings, Banquets, and Camp activities.

This year, AMAA President, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian participated in the AEUNA Biennial activities held in Burbank, CA.

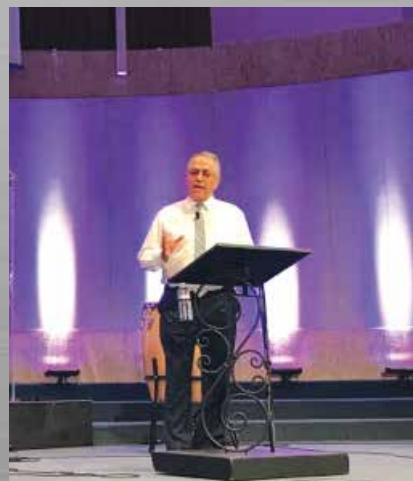
Mr. Khanjian was invited to preach at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ on August 12. Mr. Filian, at the invitation of Camp Arev Director Rev. Razmig Minassian, was invited to speak at the Camps for Junior High School and

High School campers in July. Both times the Camp attendance was filled to capacity. Mr. Filian was also invited to preach and or present a video presentation about the AMAA Ministries around the world at the following churches: Christ Church in La Crescenta, CA on June 3, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno, CA on July 15, and Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, San Francisco, CA on August 5.

The AMAA leadership thanks the pastors of all the churches who give us the opportunity to share our mission work with their congregation. We thank them for their partnership, prayer and financial participation in the sustenance and growth of our Mission and invite them to join us in celebrating the Centennial of the AMAA's ministry on October 20, 2018 in Los Angeles, CA. □



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.



AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian at Christ Church in La Crescenta, CA.



AMAA Sunday at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, CA.



AMAA Sunday at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA.



AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian at Camp Arev.

Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի 172-ամեակին եւ
Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան 100-ամեակին առիթով

ԿԵՆԴԱՆԻ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՆ «ԶԵՐԵՐԸ ԵՒ ՈՄՐԵՐԸ»

Վեր. Պերճ Շամպագեան*

Qոհունակութեամբ եւ փառաբանութեամբ կը յորդին մեր սիրտերը որպէս Հայ Աւետարանական անհատներ եւ եկեղեցիներ, որովհետեւ հաստատ զիտենք ու համոզուած ենք որ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին հիմնուած է Քրիստոսի անշարժ վեմին վրայ, որուն Գլուխը, Հովուապետը ու Բարի Հովիլը Յարուցեալ Փրկիչն է, որ կենդանի է երեկ, այսօր ու յախտեան:

Համբարձման օրը Յիսուս «Ինքինք ցուցուց կենդանի»: Գործը Առաքելոց 1. 3

Յիսուս յարութենէն ետք 10 անգամ յայտնուեցաւ: Իր յետ-յարութեան յայտնութիւնները յատուկ իմաստ եւ նշանակութիւն ունին եկեղեցւոյ կենդանութեան, աշխուժութեան, աճման ու առաքելութեան վրայ:

Կենդանի եկեղեցւոյ գոյութեան գաղտնիքնաեւ Սուրբ Հոգևոյն գալստեան խոստումին մէջ հաստատուած էր:

Սուրբ Հոգևոյն գալստեան եւ ներգործութեան նախապայման.- Միատեղ, միասնութեամբ, աղօթքով ու աղաչանքով (Գործը Առաքելոց 1. 14) սպասել է:

Յիսուս սորվեցուց եւ շեշտեց թէ ոչ ուժով եւ ոչ զօրութիւնով, հապա միայն Սուրբ Հոգևոյն զօրութիւնով է եկեղեցւոյ կենդանութեան գաղտնիքը:

Աշակերտները, կիները եւ Յիսուսի մայրը՝ Մարիամ, վերնատան մէջ Սուրբ Հոգևոյն զօրութեան փորձառութիւնը ունեցան որ կը գերազանցէր մարդկային բոլոր զօրութիւնները:

Սուրբ Հոգևոյն զօրութիւնը, որ Յունարէն բնագրով DUNAMIS կը կոչուի, անսահման, գերազանց, գերազօր ու հրաշագործ զօրութիւն է:

Այդ զօրութիւնն է որ Աստուած զործածեց մեր փեկութեան, հոգեւոր այլակերպութեան ու յեղաշրջման համար:

Dunamis զօրութիւնով Ան կը պահէ մեր կեանքը եւ նոյն զօրութիւնով տակաւին պիտի փառաւորէ եկեղեցին յախտենականութեան մէջ:

Սուրբ Հոգևոյն Dunamis զօրութիւնը եկեղեցին կեանք կու տայ ու կենդանութեան մէջ կը պահէ, ամրապնդելով եկեղեցւոյ ուղղահայեաց յարաքերութիւնը Գլխուն հետ:

Երբ եկեղեցին Գլխուն հետ կենդանի յարաքերութեան մէջ է, միւս բոլոր անդամներն ալ, մարմինին, կը դառնան կենդանի աղօթքով, Աստուծոյ խօսքով եւ Սուրբ Հոգին ներգործութիւնով:

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը փոխարքական իմաստով, կենդանի «Զերերն ու Ոտքերն» է Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին:

Կենդանի «Զերեր եւ Ոտքեր» ծառայութեան սկան 100 տարիներ առաջ Սուրբ Հոգևոյն զօրութիւնով լեցուած, սպառազինուած ու պատրաստուած նուիրեալ ու կամաւոր ծառայի մը միջոցով յանձին՝ Վեր. Միհրան Գալյաճեանի, Յունիս 7, 2018-ին Սէսէչուսէց Նահանգի Worcester քաղաքին մէջ, Հայ Աւետարանական Սիուլթեան Արեւելեան շրջանի համագումարի մը ընթացքին:

Վերապատուելին Սուրբ Հոգևոյն ներգործութեամբ եւ զօրութեամբ դարձաւ Քրիստոսի կենդանի, եկեղեցւոյ փոխարքական իմաստով ծառայող «Զերերն ու Ոտքերը»:

Ա. Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը Յիսուսի ձեռքերուն նմանեցան:

Բեթղեհէմի նորածին Յիսուսի փափուկ ու քնքուշ ձեռքերը, հակառակ ատաղձագործութեան տարիներուն, Սուրբ Հոգևոյն զօրութեամբ դարձան ու մնացին հրաշագործ ձեռքեր:

- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը Քրիստոսի սիրոյն մէջ թաթխուած վերածուեցան ողորմութեան եւ զթառատութեան ձեռքերու, որոնք միայն տպա զիտէին կարօւեալներուն, ու տուին անյափաղ, անսակարգ եւ անխտիր:
- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը բռունձքներ չէին, հապա փափուկ ձեռքեր, որոնք կը փայփայէին ու կը շոյէին լրուածները, մոռցուածները եւ զիտէկցար անտեսուածներու կեանքերը:



- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը փափկութեամբ ցաւատանց հայորդիներու արցունքները կը սրբէին, կորուած ժախտը վերադարձնելու համար:
- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը սննդատու ձեռքեր էին, որոնք անօրին կը կերակրէին ու ծառաւին ծառաւը կը յագեցնէին արսորի կիզիշ արեւու ծառագայթներու տակ՝ յիշեցնելով Յիսուսի ձեռքերը որոնք օրինեցին:
- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը կ'արիւն էին տառապեալին ու վիրաւորին արիւնու վերքերուն բալասան ըլլալու համար՝ Յիսուսի տիպարին հետեւելով, որ սիրայօժար կրեց ծանր խաչը, ու խառագաններու հարուածներուն տակ բարձրացաւ ի Գողգոթայ, ուր իր հրաշագործ ու փափուկ ձեռքերը ժանգոտած գամերով գամեցին խաչափայտին վրայ, որպէսզի կատարուի Եսայի Մարգարէին մարգարէութիւնը «Իր վերքերով մենք քժկուեցանք»:
- Աւետարանչականը նախապատի նկատեց վերքերու վրայ իւղ եւ զինի թափել՝ բուժման համար, հետեւելով Բարի Սամարացիի օրինակին:
- Աւետարանչականը իր ձեռքերը բուժման երկնցուց անվարան՝ իհւանութեան եւ համաճառակի պատճառա մէկուսացած, անտեսուած ու բնական կեանք զրկուած բորոտներու ճակատագրին մատնուած անձերուն, հետեւելով Յիսուսի օրինակին, որ իր ձեռքերը երկնցուց ու դպաւ բորոտին, բուժեց իր ախտը, վերադարձնելով զինք իր ընտանիքին ու համայնքին:
- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը հասան օգնութեան կոյրերուն եւ աշազուրկներուն, ստեղծելով միջոցներ յստակատեսութեան, հետեւելով Յիսուսի շահիներուն: «Յիսուսիր ձեռքերը կոյրինաքը երունվրայ դրաւ ու անոր նայի տուա ու ողջնցաւ»: Մարկոս 8. 25
- Աւետարանչականի ձեռքերը կրթական եւ Քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան միջոցներ ստեղծեցին, վարժարաններ, կրթօճախներ եւ բանակավայրեր կառուցեցին, ու նոր սերունդին վրայ ձեռք դնելով օրինեցին: Յիսուսի բեռնաւորումը մարմնացնելով, «Մանք տղաք բերին, անոնց վրայ ձեռք դրաւ ու օրինեց»: Մատթեոս 19. 5

Փառք քեզ, Տէ՛ր, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան համար:

Բ. Աւետարանչականը՝ Կենդանի Եկեղեցւոյ հրաշագործ ոտքերը Յիսուսի:

Յիսուսի ոտքերը հրաշագործութիւնը: Ուր որ Յիսուս քալեց ու կայնեցաւ հրաշներ պատահեցան: Մատթեոս 15. 30

Յիսուսի ոտքերուն առջեւ պատասխանուեցան աղաշանքները Յայրոսին, որ իր կիսամեռ աղջիկը կենդանացուց: Մարկոս 5. 22

Յիսուսի ոտքերուն առջեւ ինկաւ մայրը, որուն փորիկ աղջիկը պիղծ ողի ուներ, ու Յիսուս ըսաւ.- «Քու աղջիկեղ դեւը եկաւ»:

Յիսուսի ոտքերը ճշմարտութեան աւետիսը կը փոխանցէին: Մարիամ Յիսուսի ոտքերուն քով նստաւ ու մտիկ կ'ընէի: Ղուկաս 10. 39

Յիսուս ամբողջ օրը քալեց ու եկաւ յոգնած՝ Յակոբի ջրհորին քովը նստաւ, ուր Սամարացի կնոջ հանդիպեցաւ, որ լման այլակերպեցաւ Յիսուսի խօսքերէն... եւ իր միջոցով ամբողջ գիւղ մը դարձի եկան ու Յիսուսը ճանչցան: Յովիաննու 4. 3, 4

Աւետարանչականը Յիսուսի տիպարով ներշնչուելով Յիսուսի շահիներուն մէջ քալեց:

- Երբ կիսամեռ տառապեալը տեսան, քովէն չանցան, հապա մօտեցան կիսամեռին՝ վերքերը փաթթելու համար:
- Աւետարանչականի ոտքերը կրակներու մէջէն կ'անցնին այրած սիրտերու կրակները մարելու համար:
- Աւետարանչականի ոտքերը ցեխսերու մէջ կոխկրտելով ցեխի տիղմէն կ'ազատագրեն յուսահատը եւ ճարահատը:
- Ոտքեր, որոնք կրակներու մէջէն անվախ անցնելով գթառատութեան առաքելութիւն կ'ամբողջացնեն:
- Ոտքեր, որոնք լեռներ կը մազցին ծառաւին գաւաթ մը ջուր, անօթիին կտոր մը հաց ու մերկին հազուստ տալով:
- Ոտքեր, որոնք կը մօտենան աղքատին, որին ու որբեւայրին կարիքները հոգալու:
- Ոտքեր, որոնք անյապաղ Աւետարանի Բարի Լուրը կը հաղորդեն՝ հոգիներու փրկութեան համար:
- Ոտքեր, որոնք Սուրբ Հոգունյան Դոնամիս-ով շիտակ ուղղութեան մէջ կը քալեն: Կեանքով ու վարքով տիպարներ կը դառնան:
- Ոտքեր որոնք մղոններ կը ճամբորդեն
 - Ներած մանուկներու ընկերներ ըլլալու
 - Սոցուածները ընդգրկելու
 - Լրուածները լնդունելու
 - Կորսուածները շիտակ ճամբու մէջ առաջնորդելու

Մէկ խօսքով, Աւետարանչականը, Սուրբ Հոգունյան գորութիւնը Դոնամիս փոխարքերական իմաստով որպէս «Զեռքեր եւ Ոտքեր» կը գործածէ Աստուծոյ սէրը զործնականացէնելու:

Ու վերջապէս Յիսուս կոչ կ'ուղղէ բոլորիս անխսիր ոտնլուայի...

Յիսուս՝ ղենջակը իր մէջքը փաթթելով կ'ուգէ մեր ոտքերը լուալ, որպէսզի մեջի պատուիրած առաքելութիւնը իրականացնենք ու սատարենք իր թագաւորութեան աճման ու ընդարձակման համար:

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան կը մաղթենք 100 տարիներ եւս պտղաբեր առաքելութեան՝ Վասն Քրիստոսի եւ Վասն Հայրենեաց: □

* Վերջ. Պերճ Ճամպագեան Հիսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Միուլթեան Հովուապետն է:



Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւն Հաւատքի, Սիրոյ եւ Ծառայութեան Հարիւրամեայ Աւանդ

Վեր. Դոկտ. Ժան Խանճեան*

Գ. Մաս 100 Տարուայ Անձնուրաց Առաջնորդութիւն

Sիար Էնափ Թորիկեան Երկրորդ Աշխարհամարտի բանակին մէջ օդաչու ծառայած եւ յաջող առեւտրական մարդ՝ ընտրուեցաւ Գործադիր Տնօրինի պաշտօնին: Բայց նախքան այդ՝ ան տարիներու փորձառութիւն կուտակած էր Աւետարանչականի տարբեր մարզերէն ներս: Ան 46 տարիներ ծառայած է Դրամարկութեան Յանձնախումքին մէջ, 16 տարիներ Անձնակազմի Յանձնախումքին մէջ, երկու տարիներ Աւետարանչականի Գանձապահ եւ ինը տարիներ Վարչական Խորհուրդի Նախագահ (1997-2005): Ան նաև զուգահեռ վարած է Նախագահի եւ Առժմանայ Գործադիր Տնօրինի զոյզ պաշտօնները կամաւորապէս (25 Մեպստ. 2000 – Ապրիլ 1, 2001, ապա նաև Օգոստ. 2003 – Դեկտ. 2004) առանց յատուցման: 2005-էն մինչեւ Փետրուար 2010 ան ստանձնած է Գործադիր Տնօրինի պաշտօնը որպէս վճառովի պաշտօնեայ: Տիար Թորիկեան 33 անգամներ այցելած է Հայաստան, որոնց մէկ մասը Վեր. Ճանապարհանի հետ: Ան մասնակցած է Վանաձորի Եկեղեցիի հիմնադրութեան արարողութեան, հողամասեր ապահոված Հայաստանի Կառավարութենէն Եկեղեցիներ ու բարեսիրական կեղրոններ կառուցանելու համար: Հայաստանի մէջ որպէս Աւետարանչականի Կեղրոնաստեղի իր ջանքերով գնուած է Բարյամեան 18 համալիր, որ նախապէս Ամերիկեան Դեսպանատունը եղած էր: Այս նպատակին համար ան կստարած է դրամարշաւ եւ գոյացուցած 11.5 միլիոն տողար, որմէ մաս մը գործածուած է Աւետիստեան Վարժարանի երկու հերդարնոց տարածքի գնման: Տիար Թորիկեան, մեղմ ու ազնի մօտեցումով եւ փորձառութենէն քաղած իմաստութիւնով, Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը յառաջ տարաւ նոր նուաճումներով:



Էնափ Թորիկեան:
կը նախագահէ
Աւետարանչականի 85րդ
Տարեթողութիւն:

ՏԱՐԻՆԵՐՈՒ ԾԱՌԱՅՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Տիար Լեւոն Ֆիլեան 2010-ի սկիզբները ընտրուեցաւ Գործադիր Տնօրինի պաշտօնին, նախ Փքրէմըսի Կեղրոնաստեղիին մէջ ու ետքը Լու Անճելոսի մէջ որպէս Արեւմտեան Ափի Գործադիր Տնօրին: Ան կարեւոր ներդրում ունեցաւ Աւետիստեան Վարժարանի կառուցման եւ նույիրահաւաքի դժուար գործին մէջ: Այս շենքն ու վարժարանը եղած են օրինակելի իրենց բարձր ճարտարապետական եւ ուսումնական մակարդակով: Վեր. Մկրտիչ Մելքոնեան ժամանակաւորապէս վարեց Գործադիր Տնօրինի պաշտօնը Հոկտ. 2013-էն մինչեւ Հոկտ. 2014:

Տիար Զաւէն Խանճեան՝ հանրածանօթ դէմք մը Լու Անճելոսի հայկական մեծ զաղութիւն մէջ, ուր գործունեայ անձնաւորութիւն մը եղած էր Աւետարանական ու ազգային կառոյցներուն, մանաւանդ Սուրբահայութեան Օգնութեան աշխատանքներուն մէջ, նշանակուեցաւ Գործադիր Տնօրինի պաշտօնին Սեպտ. 2014-ին: Ան մեծ խանդակառութեամբ սկսաւ դեկավարել աշխարհածաւալ Ընկերակցութիւնը: Ան իր ծանրակշիր պատասխանատուութեան վրայ աւելցուց ԱՀԱՀ-ի Հարիւրամեակի 20 միլիոն տողար հանգանակելու մարտահրաւերը: Հաւաքուած գումարները պիտի յատկացուին զանազան ծրագիրներու, որոնց կարգին Կյումրի (Հայաստան) քաղաքի Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի ու Համայնքային Կեղրոնի շինարարութիւնը: Համացանցի օգտագործումի իր հետևողական ջանքերու շնորհիւ Աւետարանչականի գործունեութիւններու եւ ծրագիրներու տեղեկութիւններու կը հասնի աւելի յան շրջանակներ՝ աշխարհի տարբեր կողմերը:

Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան համառօտ այս յուշագիրը վերջացնելէ առաջ՝ հարկ է անդրադառնալ բոլոր այն մարդկանց, որոնք Աւետարանչականի Վարչութեան եւ յանձնախումքերու 100 տարուան ընթացքին մատուցին անշահախնդիր ծառայութիւններ: Անոնք եղան մոյս ուժը, բարձրացնելու անոր վարկը: Այս անձնուեր անդամները սրտարուի կերպով տրամադրեցին իրենց ժամանակը եւ նիւթական կարողութիւնները: Անոնք գիշերներ անցուցին մտահղութեամբ: Երկար ճամբորդութիւններ կատարեցին իրենց սիրալիր ծառայութիւնը տալու: Աւետարանչականի Վարչական Խորհուրդի նախագահներ մեջ դեր խաղան իրենց ուշարութիւնը պահելով Ընկերակցութեան առաքելութեան ու գործի ներդաշնակութեան վրայ: Այս հակիրճ պատմութեամբ կարելի

չ անդրադառնալ անոնցմէ ամէն մէկուն: Այս պատմութեան հետ անոնց նկարները ու անունները պիտի ներկայացուին: Ներկայիս Տօքթ. Նազարեթ Տարագծեան իր խոհեմութեամբ ու նուիրումով կ'առաջնորդէ ընկերակցութիւնը, որու հարիւրամեակի հանգանակութեան արշաւին կը սատարէ իշխանական նուիրատուութեամբ: Գործադիր Տնօրինը տեսանելի դէմքնէ Ընկերակցութեան, բայց անոր ետին կանգնած են անանուն բարերարներու հոյլ մը ու համեստ նուիրատուներու բազմութիւն մը, որոնք մէծ զոհողութեամբ իրենց ունեցած լումաները նուիրած են ու կը շարունակեն նուիրել: Այս բարեսէր մարդոց կը պարտինք երախտագիտութեան ու գնահատանքի խօսք միայն: Վարձերնիդի կատար:

Ներկայիս գոյութիւն ունին 145 Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ եւ Եկեղեցական ընկերակցութիւններ, որոնք տարածուած են 23 երկիրներու մէջ, եւ անոնցմէ շատեր Աւետարանչականնեն նպաստ կը ստանան: Հետեւեալ տողերով անոնք կը ներկայացնին ամփոփ կերպով:

Ապիսազիայի մէջ կայ մէկ Եկեղեցի՝ հիմնուած 1960-ին։ Արժանիքին ունի մէկ եկեղեցի՝ Պուլնու Այրէսի մէջ որ հիմնուած է 1925-ին։

Հայաստան կը նկատուի ԱՀԱՀ-ի մեծագոյն դաշտը, ուր կան 23 եկեղեցիներ, 6 Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութեան կեղրոններ եւ 6 երեխաներու ցերեկային «Ծող» կոչուող

100 Տարիներու Հասանելիութիւն



Վեր. Եղուարդ Թովմասեան
(նատած աջէն առաջինը),
Աւետարանչականի *San
Joaquin Valley*
(Քայլիքորնիա) շրջանի
մասնաճիւղի անդամներուն
հետ (1964):

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան աջակցութեան ձեռքը կը հասնի 24 երկիրներ՝ անոնց մատուցանելով ծառայութիւն հետեւեալ չորս մարզերէն ներս.- Աւետարանչութիւն, Կրթութիւն, Երիտասարդաց Ծրագիրներ եւ Մարդասիրական Օգնութիւն:

ԱԼԵՏԱՐԱՆՀՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Աւետարանչութիւնը՝ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին ինքնութեան կարեւոր մասն է՝ բայց ունի տարրեր ինաստներ: Ունանց համար աւետարանչութիւնը կը նշանակէ արթնութեան ժողովներու հաճախելով անձը առաջնորդէլ դժոխքէն խուսափելու եւ դրախտը ապահովելու, իսկ ուրիշներու համար աւետարանչութիւն կը նշանակէ Աստուծոյ Թագավարութեան բարի լուրի յայտարարութիւնը՝ խօսքով ու գործով՝ եւ խօսիլ խաղաղութեան, արդարութեան, հաշտութեան եւ բնապահպանութեան նիւթերու մասին: Առաջին ըմբռնումը անձնակեդրոն է, իսկ երկրորդը այլակեդրոն: Շատ կարեւոր է նկատի ատնել յէտ աւետարանչութիւնը սեփականութիւնը չէ որեւէ Եկեղեցական հատուածի մը եւ կամ ԱՀԱՀ-ի, քանի որ այս Աստուծոյ առաքելութիւնն է, որով Աստուած էր, որ Քրիստոսվ աշխարհը իրեն հաշտեցու... ու մեզի վատահեցա հաշտութեան պատզամք:

Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան աւետարանչութեան աշխատանքը կ' ինդգրկէ Աւետարանը սփռել հոգեւոր զրականութեամբ, եկեղեցիներ հիմնելով եւ հաստատուած եկեղեցիներուն նեցուկ կանգնելով, որպէսզի անոնք կարենան շարունակել իրենց աստուածատուր առաքելութիւնը: Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիները ունին հինգ Միութիւններ (Եւրասիա, Հայաստան, Հիւսիսային Ամերիկա, Մերձաւոր Արեւելյ եւ Ֆրանսա) եւ Եւրոպայի Հայ Աւետարանական

Եկեղեցիներ զոյլութիւն ունեին Սկրտական Եկեղեցիի
անուան տակ: Ներկայ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական
Եկեղեցիներու հովիները երիտասարդ հոգեւորականներ են,
որոնք շրջանաւարտ եղան Հայաստանի Աւետարանական
Աստուածաբանական Ակադեմիայէն: Զանի Սփիլորի Հայ
Աւետարանական Շարժումը տեղատուութեան ընթացքի
մէջ է, նման արևմտեան Քրիստոնեայ աշխարհին, ուր
պահպանութիւնը տեղափոխեց աճումը, հետեւարար
Աւետարանչականի ղեկավարութիւնը Հայաստանը կը նկատէ
Աւետարանականութեան ապագայի փայլունոյսը, որու համար
նիւթական միջոցներ չի խնայեր:

Հետեւեալ տողերու մէջ պիտի թուենք Հայաստանի Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիները իրենց պատկան քաղաքներու անուններով եւ հիմնադրութեան թուականներով: Արովեան (2001), Այնթապ (2005), Այավերտի (1999), Արտաշատ (2000), Բերդ (2000), Տիլիման (2000), Կորիս (2001), Կյումրի (2000), Էջեւան (1996), Ղարան (2001), Նոյեմբերեան (2001), Շիրակամուտ (1999), Սիսեան (2001), Սպիտակ (1998), Մտեփանաւան (1994), Թումանեան (2002), Վանաձոր (1994), Վարդենիս (2006): Երեւան քաղաքը ունի չորս եկեղեցիներ որոնց մեծագոյնը հաստատուած է 18 Քաղրամեան պողոտայի վրայ (1994), խսկիս եկեղեցիները կը գտնուին Մալաթիա-Սեբաստիա (2002), Յոյսի Տուն (2003), եւ 2 Մամիկոնեանց (1995): Ասոնցմէզատ կան նաև վեց Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութեան կեղրոններ՝ Ազարակ (1995), Ազատամուտ (1999), Կողը (2002), Կուրդան (1994), Ուրուտ (1997) եւ Վարդաբլուր (1996): Այս եկեղեցիները թէեւ համեստ թիւով յաճախողներ ունին, բայց բարեխնամ ծառայութեամբ օգտաշատ են իրենց մասուցած հանրային ծառայութիւններով: Հարկ է յիշել, որ ԱՀԱՀ-ը նախապատութիւն կու տայ աւետարանչութեան եւ հոգեւոր արժէքներու տարածման՝ բան թէ լոկ բարեգործութեան,

քանի որ Աւետարանչականը համոզրուած է, որ Հայ ինքնութիւնը շաղախուած է Քրիստոսի Աւետարանին լոյսով:

Աւետարանի դարձած է գաղթականութեան կերպոն՝ Հայաստանէն, Եզիփտոսէն, Պարսկաստանէն, Լիբանանէն և Սուրբիալն: Միտնի քաղաքը ունի աշխոյժ համայնք մը իիմնուած 1960-ին: 1990-ական թուականներուն նոր եկեղեցաշէնք մը կառուցուեցաւ իին եկեղեցիի տարածքին վրայ:

Պետքի ընդունած ըլլալով մեծ թիւով հայեր Միջին Արեւելքն եւ յատկապէս ժուրքիալն եւ Հայաստանէն, Հայ Աւետարանական համայնքը իիմնած է իինզ եկեղեցիներ, որոնց մէկ մասը թրքախօս է եւ միւսը հայախօս: Անոնք կը գտնուին հտեւեալ քաղաքներու մէջ: Պրոլուսէ (1991), Անթուլըր (2002), Լայքէն (2000), Հասրը (2001), և Ասորի եկեղեցական ընկերակցութիւն մը Միջեւընի մէջ (2006):

Պրազիլ ունի շատ իին մէկ եկեղեցի որ կը գտնուի Սան Փաուլո քաղաքին մէջ՝ իիմնուած 1927-ին:

Պուլկարիա ունի չորս եկեղեցիներ եւ երկու Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութիւններ.- Փրլվտիվ (1922), Սօֆիա (1933) Վարնա եւ Ռուսէ: Իսկ եկեղեցական ընկերակցութիւնները կը գտնուին Սօֆիայի եւ Շումէնի մէջ:

Գանատա դրները լայն բացաւ վերջերս Սուրբիահայ գաղթականներու, եւ որու պատճառով Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ յաճախողներու թիւը կրկնապատկուեցաւ: Այս եկեղեցիները մեծ ծառայութիւն մատուցին Սուրբիոյ արհաւիրքէն փախստականներուն: Գանատա ունի չորս եկեղեցիներ: Քէյմպրիճ (1979), Ժորոնթօ (1960), իսկ Մոնթերայի մէջ երկու եկեղեցիներ իիմնուած 1960-ին:

Կիպրոսի մէջ կայ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցական Ընկերակցութիւն մը որ կը գտնուի Նիկոպիայի մէջ:

Եզիփտոս որ ժամանակին կոլիկ Հայկական գաղութ մըն եր, ունէր երկու ծաղկուն եկեղեցիներ Գահիրէի եւ Աղեքսանդրիայի մէջ: Բայց արտագաղթի պատճառաւ ներկայի միայն մէկ եկեղեցի գոյութիւն ունի Աղեքսանդրիայի մէջ՝ որ իիմնուած է 1920-ին:

Ֆրանսա ունի հարուստ եկեղեցական ցանց մը, որ կը բաղկանայ 13 եկեղեցիներէ, որոնք կազմած են իրենց եկեղեցական Միութիւնը: Մարսէլի շրջանը ունի չորս եկեղեցիներ.- Սէն Անթուան (1927), Պոնտն (1920) Սէն Լուի (1926) եւ Լա Սիոնթա (1928): Իսկ միւս եկեղեցիները կը գտնուին հետեւեալ քաղաքներուն մէջ.- Ալֆորվի (1930), Արնուվի Լա Կոնէս (2000), Պուրկ լէ Վալանս (1925), Տէխնէ (1929) Իսի Լէ Մուլինօ (1928), Լիոն (1924), Մոնթէլիմար (1920), Փարիզ (1928) եւ Փոնք Տոպէնա (1932): Ֆրանսայի եկեղեցիները ունին երկու ամառնային կեդրոններ եւ հանգստեան կոչուած տարեցներու տուն մը: Ֆրանսայի Միութիւնը կը հրատարակէ նաեւ իրենց պաշտօնական թերթը՝ նուամսեայ մը, որ կը կոչուի Բանքէր:

Վրաստան միշտ ունեցած է հայաբնակ շրջաններ, ուր աւետարանական աշխատանք տարուած է 19-րդ դարէն սկսեալ: Վրաստանի հնագոյն եկեղեցին իիմնուած է Թիֆլիսի մէջ 1880-ին: Վիալքալաք քաղաքը ունի երեք եկեղեցիներ որոնք իիմնադրուած են 1994, 1999 եւ 2004 թուականներուն: Կայ նաեւ եկեղեցի մը Ախալցխէի մէջ՝ իիմնուած 1993-ին:



Գերմանիա ունի երեք նոր եւ փոքր եկեղեցիներ՝ Էրինէկէն (2008), Քոհի (2010), եւ Սթուրկարտ (2011) քաղաք-ներուն մէջ:

Յունաստան, որ ժամանակին հայկական կարեւոր գաղութ մըն եր եւ ունէր երկու եկեղեցիներ, ներկայիս ունի մէկ եկեղեցի Գոգգինիայի մէջ՝ իիմնուած 1932-ին: Ծրագիր կայ շուտով սկսի երկրորդ նոր եկեղեցի մը մեսաղոնիկէի մէջ:

Հոլլանտայի մէջ թէեւ պաշտօնական եկեղեցի գոյութիւն չունի, սակայն Եւրոպայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան միջոցով Աւետարանչական գործ կը կատարուի Հայ գաղութիւն մէջ, ինչպէս նաեւ հոգեւոր գրականութիւն կը հայթայթուի:

Պարսկաստան որ եղած է իին հայկական գաղթավայր մը Շահ Ապահան ժամանէկն, ունի չորս եկեղեցիներ մէկ թէրանի մէջ, որոնցմէ հեազոյնը իիմնուած է 1876-ին եւ նորազոյնը Էմմանուէլ Եկեղեցին է, որ վերջերս Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութեան միացաւ:

Իրաք ունի մէկ եկեղեցի Պատուադի մէջ, որ դժուար պատերազմական տագնապաններ կ'անցըն:

Ղարաբաղ որու պաշտօնական անունը եղաւ Արցախ ունի մէկ եկեղեցի Ստեփանակերտի մէջ՝ իիմնուած 2003-ին: Հոն կան նաև երեք քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութեան կեդրոններ Շուշիի, Ստեփանակերտի եւ Ազերբայչանի մէջ: Շուշիի մէջ կայ «Շող» երեխաններու ցերեկային կեդրոն մը եւ ճամբար մը, իսկ Ազերբայչանի մէջ «Շող» երեխաններու ցերեկային կեդրոն մը:

Իլիբանան որ եղած է ճոխ Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներու գործունեութեան դաշտ մը, ունի եկեղեցի մը Անճարի մէջ եւ իինց եկեղեցիներ՝ Պէյրութի տարրեր շրջաններուն մէջ.- Առաջին եկեղեցի (1922), Էշրէֆիէի եկեղեցի (1926), Նոր Մարաշի եկեղեցի (1934), Նոր Ամանոսի եկեղեցի (1967) եւ Սրբ Էլպուշրիէի Սիրիանի Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին (1966): Լիբանանի 16-ամեայ պատերազմը որ մեծ վնասներ հասուց եկեղեցական շենքերուն՝ այժմ նորոգուած, պարպեց Հայ գաղութը ու նոսրացուց եկեղեցիի անդամներուն թիւը: Սակայն, կրթական եւ հանայնքային կառոյցները կը շարունակէն իրենց աշխատանքը: Լիբանանի մէջ կը հրատարակուի նաև Զանասէր-ը, որ Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Միութեան պաշտօնաթերթն է:

Ո-ուսաստան՝ Սովետական Միութեան անկումը Աւետարանչականին առջև մեծ դաշտ մը բացաւ: Հետեւարա ԱՀԱՀ-ի քաջալերանքով յառաջ եկան երկու եկեղեցիներ.- Մուկուա (1993), Սոյի (1997) եւ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցական Ընկերակցութիւն մը Արմավիլի մէջ:

Սուրբիա՝ որ եղած էր առաջին կայարանը ցեղասպանութեան ող մնացած ժողովուրդին՝ բռնկած է վեց տարուայ աղետայի

պատերազմով, եւ վնաս հասցուցած բոլոր եկեղեցիներուն, դպրոցներում ու ամառնային ճամբարին: Խևկ ամենամեծ վնասը եղաւ ժողովուրդին գաղթո՞ւ մի քի ամէն տեղ: Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը օգնեց շատերուն որ Հայաստան ներգաղթէն ու հոն հաստատուին: Հայէայի մէջ կան հինգ եկեղեցիներ.- Բերթէ (1923), Էմմանուէլ (1852), Նահատակաց (1931), Քրիստոսի Եկեղեցի, որ նաև աւետարանչական ու բարեխրական կեղրոն մըն է հիմնուած Օրդ. Պիլի Կողմէ (1924-25), որ հազարաւոր տարագիր մանուկներու մայրը կոչուեցաւ, եւ Սիրիանի Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի (1885): Դամասկոսի եւ Հոնդի մէջ կան համեստ եկեղեցիներ: Քէսապի շրջանին մէջ կան չորս եկեղեցիներ: - Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Եկեղեցի (1853), Էրիզ Օլուզ (1882), Քէօրքիւնէ (1855) եւ Գալատուրան (1885): Քէսապի Եկեղեցիները, որոնք մեծապէս վնասուած էին, ներկայիս վերանորոգուած են: Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Եկեղեցին վերջերս ունեցաւ իր նորոգութեան նաւակատիրի պաշտամունքը:

Թուրքիա՝ ուր ծնունդ առաջ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, տակաւին ունի երկու գործունեայ եկեղեցիներ Պոլսոյ շրջանին մէջ: Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Եկեղեցին որ եղած է առաջին եկեղեցին՝ հիմնուած է 1846-ին եւ Կէտիկ Փաշայի Եկեղեցին հիմնուած է 1850-ին: Երկու եկեղեցիներն այ ունին մէկ աւելի Կիրակնօրեայ պաշտամունքներ՝ Հայերէն եւ այլ լեզուներ խօսող հաւատացեալներու համար:

Ուրուկուէյ ունի մէկ եկեղեցի Մոնթէվիտէնյի մէջ եւ Աւետարանչական Յանձնախումք մը:

Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգները ըլլալով լայնատարած երկիր մը կազմած է մէկ եկեղեցական միութիւն, որը կ'ընդգրկվ 25 Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ եւ երկու եկեղեցական ընկերակցութիւններ, որոնք եկեղեցի ըլլալու ընթացքի մէջ են: Այս եկեղեցիները տարածուած են 11 նահանգներու մէջ եւ

որոնց մեծամասնութիւնը կը գտնուի Արևելեան եւ Արևմտեան ափերուն վրայ: Վստ եկեղեցիներու հնագոյնը հիմնուած է 1892-ին խևկ վերջինը 2002-ին: Քայլֆորնիայի մէջ կան 14 եկեղեցիներ եւ մէկ եկեղեցական ընկերակցութիւն: Իլինոյ մէկ եկեղեցի, Մէսիսուսէց երեք եկեղեցիներ եւ մէկական եկեղեցիներ հետեւեալ նահանգներուն մէջ:- Միչիկըն, Նևաստա, Նիւ Հեմքչիր, Նիւ Շրզի, Նիւ Եօրք, Բենսիլվենիա, Րուտ Այլընտ եւ Եութա: Կարգ մը եկեղեցիներու պաշտամունքներուն սակաւաթիւ թիւով հաւատացեալներ կրյաճախիւն, մինչ ուրիշ եկեղեցիներու աւելի մեծ թիւով: Անշուշտ ասոր պատճառը եկեղեցիի շրջանին աւելի հայաբնակ ըլլալն է: Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Սիութեան պաշտօնաթերթը FORUM-ն է :

Այս համառօտ պատկերէն ի յայտ կու զայ թէ Հայ Աւետարանականներու թիւը Միջին Արեւելքի մէջ նուազած է քաղաքական եւ տնտեսական անկայունութեան ու կրօնական հավածանքներու պատճառով: Այս իրականութեան դիմաց Աւետարանչականը կրկին կը դիմագրաւէ նորանոր մարտահրաւելներ՝ փախատականներուն օգնելու, անոնց ցաւը ամոքելու եւ յոյսի աւետարանին լոյսը տարածելու: Ներկայ պայմաններուն դիմաց հարկ է ռազմավարական ծրագիրներ մշակել ապազայ մը ունենալու եւ թոյլ չտալ որ տեղական պարագաներ որոշեն եկեղեցին ու համայքին ապազան:

Վերջը յաջորդ թիւով...



Վեր. Դոկտ. Ժան Խունճեան նախկին նախագահն է Պէրութիւնական Համագույն Համալսարանի:

* Ընդհակարարութեան արժանի է Լոկիս Ճանպաղեանի օգնութիւնը և ներդրումը այս գրութեան պատրաստութեան համար:

ՎԵՐԱԾՆՎԱԾ ԳՅՈՒՄՐԻՆ ԱՎԵՏԱՐԱՆՉԱԿԱՆԻ ՄՐՏՈՒՄ

Վեր. Կարեն Մանուկյան եւ Մարինե Մանուկյան*

1988թ...Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունը թևակրիստ էր մի ծանր ժամանակաշրջան, պայքարում էր իր փոքր եղբոր՝ Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի անկախության և ժողովրդի ազատագրման համար: Փորձում էր իրնուրույնություն ձեռք բերել անձայրածիր թվացող հզոր պետությունների կողքին: ԵՎ ահա 1988թ., դեկտեմբերի 7, ժամը 11:41 րոպէ, թվում է սովորական ձմեռային կիսացուրտ օր, մարդիկ տարված իրենց առօրյա հոգսերով ապրում են. մեկն իր փոքրիկին տարեկ էր նախակրթարան և շտապում էր աշխատանքի, մյուսներն արդեն պատրաստվում են ընդմիջման գնալ, շատ դպրոցականներ սպասում են, թե երբ է զրնգալու այդքան սպասված դասամիջոցի զանգը: Բայց ավաղ... 1988թ. դեկտեմբերի 7-ին Շիրակի և Լոռու մարզի բնակչիները գրկվեցին համեղ գրույցից, գրկվեցին իրենց դառը քրտինքով կառուցած բնակարաններից, գրկվեցին



իրենց ընտանիքներից, զրկվեցին իրենց ամենաթանկ և հարազատ մարդկանցից, զրկվեցին երազանքներից: Ես հիշում եմ, որ դպրոցում էի, այդ ժամանակ դեռ յոթերորդ դասարանում էի: Երբ երկրաշարժը սկսվեց, բոլորս վագեցինք դասարանից դուրս: Մեր դասարանը գտնվում էր դպրոցի երկրորդ մասնաշենքում, բայց քանի որ դպրոցում խիստ համակարգ էր, ոչ մեկս չհամարձակվեցինք կոտրել առաջին հարկի ապակիները ու դուրս փախչել, փոխարենք վագեցինք դեպի առաջին մասնաշենք, դեպի կենտրոնական մուտք: Մեր դասարանի երեխաներով առաջին մասնաշենք չհասանք, և մնացինք փլատակների տակ: Իմ կողքին քարերի տակ ընկած էր մեր դասարանի տղաներից մեկը: Երբ ցնցումներն ավարտվեցին, թողի ու բղավոցների սարսափելի տեսարանի մեջ մի փոքրիկ լույս երևաց: Ովքեր, որ ողջ էին մնացել կամաց-կամաց շարժվեցին դեպի այդ լույսը: Դա մի փոքրիկ անցք էր քարերի մեջ, որի միջով կարողացանք դուրս սողալ: Դրսում ավելի սարսափելի էր, քան ներսում: Անդամահատված երեխաներ, մահացած ուսուցիչներ, ամենուր արյուն, թող ու շպրտված քարի կտորներ: Ողջ մնացած ուսուցիչները փորձում էին փրկել երեխաներին, իսկ մահացածներին տեղափորում էին մայթերի վրա:

Հայրս զինվորական էր, և մինչ կհասներ դպրոց, մայրս, առանց կանգ առնելու, վագել էր երկու կիլոմետր և հասել դպրոց: Քույրս այդ օրը դպրոց չէր գնացել, ուներ քննություն երաժշտական դպրոցում և մնաց էր տանը: Պատկերացրեք ծնողների ապրումները, երբ վագում ես դեպի դպրոց քո երեխային փրկելու և ճանապարհին ասում են, որ այդ դպրոցը գոյություն չունի: Աղետը ահավոր էր և դրա սպին հավետ կմնա այն վերապրածների հիշողության մեջ:

Երեսուն վայրկյանի ընթացքում ավերվել էր ՀՀ տարածքի մոտ 40%-ը, ուր ապրում էր 1 մլն. մարդ: Ավերման գոտին, որտեղ երկրաշարժի ուժգնությունը կազմել էր 9 քայլ և ավելին, ընդգրկել էր երեք հազար քառ. կմ տարածություն: Տուժել են 21 քաղաք և շրջան, 342 գյուղ: Անօթևան մնացին 514 հազար մարդ: Տարբեր աստիճանի վնասվածքներ են ստացել մոտ 20000 մարդ, 416 մարդ զրկվեցին վերջույթներից, որոնցից 54-ը երեխաներ, հոսպիտալացվել են 12500 մարդ, զոհերի թիվը կազմել է 25000 մարդ: Չոհեր շատ են եղել հատկապես Գյումրիում (մոտ 15-17 հազար) եւ Սպիտակում (4հազ) մարդ:

Ազգաբնակչության և փրկարարների ջանքերով փլատակներից, զոհված կամ կենդանի, հանվել է ավելի քան 45000 մարդ, հոսպիտալացվել 12500 մարդ: Առաջին օրերին մարդկանց փլատակների տակից հանում էին՝ օգտագործելով հասարակ գործիքներ և կամ պարզապես ձեռքով: Մեր բարեկամներից մեկի տղան՝ Արմենը, որ իմ հասակին էր, մնացել էր դպրոցում թեսոնե սալիկի տակ, և նրա հայրը տեսնելով, որ երեխան արյունահոսում է, սղոցով կտրել էր երեխայի ոտքերը, և մի անծանոթի մերենայով տարել օդանավակայան, որ ինքնաթիռով հասցնեն Երևան, բայց տղան ճանապարհին մահանում է: Շատ շատերը դարձան անդամալոյն, որբացան շատ երեխաներ,

շատերին է ինքնաթիռով տարան արտասահման բուժման և նրանք մնացին այնտեղ: Ումանք խենթացան՝ տեսնելով իրենց ընտանիքի անդամների մահը: Շատ շատերի կանքը փոխվեց, շատերը հասան աղքատության շեմին, անտուն և անգործություն: Զևավորվեց նոր մշակույթ, սոցիալական անապահովություն և անպահպանվածություն:

Մեծ վնաս է հասցվել նաև ճարտարապետական, պատմական, արվեստի հուշարձաններին, տուժել է ժողովրդություն 917 օցախ:

Գյումրիում լրիվ ավերվեցին ճարտարապետական կողուղիներն, այդ թվում Ամենափրկիչ եկեղեցին՝ Ծիրակի զարդն ու հապարտությունը: Գյումրին, այն ժամանակ Լենինական, կորցրեց իր արհեստագործական կենտրոնները, Փարրիկաները և գործարանները: Քաղաքի ավելի քան 50 ձեռնարկություններում աշխատում էր մոտ 40,000 բանվոր-ծառայող, թողարկվում էր ավելի քան 700 տեսակ արդյունաբերական ապրանք: Գյումրին ՍՍՀՄ տեսատի արդյունաբերության կարևոր կենտրոններից էր և ամենախոշորը Հայկական ՍՍՀ-ում: Հանրապետությունում առաջինը Գյումրիում հիմք դրվեց տրիկոտաժենենի արդյունաբերությանը: Կարևոր ճյուղերից էին նաև կողիկի ու կարի արդյունաբերությունը: Այս ամենը մնացին անցյալում: Մարդիկ զրկվեցին իրենց հանապազօրյա հացից, տնից, ամեն ինչից, որ տարիների ընթացքում ստեղծել էին: Բայց Հայաստանում վիճակը գնալով բարդանում էր, քանի որ պատերազմական իրավիճակ էր, փուզվել էր Խորհրդային Պետությունը, անկախ Հայաստանը դեռ ձևավորման փուլի մեջ էր, և մյուս կողմից երկրաշարժի հետևանքները: Մարդիկ չունեին էլեկտրական հոսանք, գազ, հոսող ջուր և ապրելու համար անհրաժեշտ առաջնային պայմանները: Ես հիշում եմ, որ 90 -ական թվականներին էլեկտրական հոսանք ունենում էինք միայն գիշերը, ժամը 3-4-ը, և այդ ժամանակ մայրս մեզ արթնացնում էր, որ լողանանք, ինքն էլ տան կերակուրը և մնացած գործերը, որոնք կապված էին տաք ջրի հետ, անում էր այդ ժամերին: Երկար տարիներ Գյումրիում բացակայում էր կենսական անհրաժեշտության պայմանները:

Աշխարհը խոսեց հայերի ողբերգության մասին: Հարյուրավոր կազմակերպություններ, աշխարհահռչակ դերասաններ և երգիչներ, քաղաքական գործիքներ, ամբողջ սփյուռքահայությունը մի բուռ եղավ և իր օգնության ձեռքը մեկենց ավերիչ աղետից իր գուլիք կորցրած խեղճ հային: Այդ օրերին կարծես Հայաստանն էր դարձել աշխարհի կենտրոնը: Այս, կյանքը շարունակվեց, Աստված միխթարեց որքսայրիին՝ իր հույսը կապել իրեն նվեր մնացած ընտանիքի մյուս անդամների հետ, որդեկրույս մայրերին՝ մայրանալով, կոտրված ընտանիքները իրար միացնելով, բազմաթիվ հզոր կառույցների և բարեգության հետաների ներդրումներով կառուցվեցին բնակելի տներ, բնակարաններ: Դանիան, Խոպիան, Մեծ Բրիտանիան և այլ պետություններ Գյումրիում կառույցին դպրոցներ, հիվանդանոցներ, մանկապարտեզներ և այլ կրթական օջախներ: Հայաստանի տարբեր քաղաքներից և գյուղերից,

ինչպես նաև արտերկրներից եկան կամավորներ և օգնեցին քաղաքի վերակառուցմանը:

Այդ օրերին անմասն չմնաց նաև Ամերիկայի Հայ Ավետարանչական ընկերակցությունը, որն անմիջապես իր բարեսիրական ծրագրերը սկսեց Հայաստանում և մասնավոր Ծիրակի մարզում: Կազմակերպությունը աղետից տուժած ընտանիքներին օգնեց սնունդով, դեղորայքով, մանկական սնունդով, հագուստով, գրենական պիտույքներով և այլն:

Ամերիկայի Հայ Ավետարանչական Ընկերությունը Գյումրիում պաշտոնապես գրանցվեց 1999 թվ-ին: Սկզբ առավ հովանավորության ծրագիրը, որտեղ ընդգրկվում էին ծնողագործք, բազմանդամ, սոցիալապես անապահով, հաշմանդամ ընտանիքներից երեխաներ: Հովանավորության ծրագիր մեջ 1999 թ-ին գրանցված էին շուրջ 590 երեխաներ, իսկ մանկական կերի ծրագրից ամեն ամիս օգտվում էին 120 մանուկներ: Այս ծրագրի շնորհիվ շատ մանուկների կոտրված սրտերը ապաքինվեցին, ընդհատված երազանքները սկսեցին կրկին իրականանալ, շատ երիտասարդներ շարունակեցին իրենց ուսումը բարձրագույն ուսումնական հաստատություններում:

Ավետարանչականի տարբեր ծրագրեր հաճախած երեխաները դարձան թժիշկներ, մանկավարժներ, տնտեսագետներ, պատմաբաններ, արվեստի գործիչներ և վերջապես հայ ազգի համար պիտանի քաղաքացիներ: Ամերիկայի Հայ Ավետարանչական Ընկերակցությունը Հայաստանում իրականացնում էր ամառային հանգստի ճամբարներ, որտեղ երեխաներն անցկացնում էին իրենց հանգիստը, ճաշակում էին մի նոր զարգողություն՝ սեր և գուրգուրգուրանք, այս հիանալի ծրագրից սկսեցին օգտվել նաև Ծիրակի մարզի շատ երեխաներ, ինչից ցանք անողոք աղետը զրկել էր շատ մանուկների:

Տարիների ընթացքում աղետից տուժած քաղաքներում բացվեցին դարմանատներ, ատամնաբուժարաններ և կիմիկա: Զարկ տրվեց մշակութային և կրթական ծրագրերին, կազմակերպության և բարերարների կողմից վերակազմվեցին դպրոցներ և նախակրթարաններ, Ամերիկայի Հայ Ավետարանչական ընկերակցությունը մի հոյսի շող էր, փարու այդ մնիքագույն և մոշայ առօրյայում, իսկ հիմա մոտ բարեկամ է և հարազատ անդամ այն ընտանքիներում, որտեղ թեկուզ մի շող է սփոռել այն իր մեծ ջերմությունից:

2015 թվ-ից Գյումրիում Ավետարանչական Ընկերակցությունը սկսեց նոր շենքի շինարարությունը: 2018 թվ-ին Ավետարանչականի Գյումրու անձնակազմը տեղափոխվում է արդեն ավարտված նորակառուց շենք և նոր շենքում սկսում ծրագրերը նոր թափով և ավելի ուրախ սրտով: Նոր շենքը, որ շատ տարբեր է իր հնարավորություններով նախկինի համեմատ, տախի է Գյումրու Ավետարանչականի և Հայ Ավետարանական Եկեղեցու տեսիլքներն ու առաքելությունը իրականացնելու հնարավորություններ: Նոր եկեղեցաշենքը այնքան լուսավոր և ընդարձակ է, որ կարծես հավատացյալին հրավիրի ճանաչելու Աստծո սերն ու քաղցրությունը: Եկեղեցաշենքի դահլիճը հարմար է նաև

Սուրբ Ծննդյան, Սուրբ Չատկի և այլ մեծ միջոցառումների համար: Նոր շենքը օգնում է ավելի մեծ թվով երեխաների ներգրավել տարբեր մշակութային և կրթական ծրագրերի մեջ:

Ավետարանչական Ընկերակցության Գյումրու նոր շենքը իր ճարտարապետական լուծումներով և ճիշտ ընտրված քարի գույնով լրացրեց Գյումրու մշակութային կողորդությունը, մինչդեռ շուրջ 30 տարի այդ նոյն տարածքում տեղակայված էին երկրաշարժը հիշեցնող կիսաքանդ տնակներ: Ավետարանչականի Գյումրու գրասենյակը տասնյակ հազարավոր ընտանիքների օգնեց երեխուն տարիների ընթացքում: Հազարավոր երեխաներ օգտվեցին մանկական կերի և սոցիալական հովանավորության ծրագրից, հազարավոր երեխաներ սովորեցին և սովորում են մշակութային, կրթական և արհեստագործական խմբակներում: 2018 թվ-ի Սուրբ Ծննդյան միջոցառմանը հրավիրված էին 1000 երեխաներ, նրանք ստացան նվերներ, ծնողների հետ ներկա էին շուրջ 1800 մարդ: Ավելի մեծ թվով ընտանիքներ կվարվեն իրենց սոցիալական անապահով վիճակից: Ստեղծվեցին աշխատատեղեր մի քանի սոցիալական ոլորտի աշխատողների և ուսուցիչների համար: Գյումրու գրասենյակում նախկինում գործում էր կրթական ծրագիր, որը նոր շենք տեղափոխվելով՝ դարձավ «Ծող» համայնքահեն Ցերեկային Կենտրոն, որը ներառում է 60 երեխաների: «Ծող»-ը առիթ կտա երեխաներին զարգացնել գիտելիքները, նոր հմտություններ ձեռք բերել, հաստատուն և կայուն քայլեր անել նոր ապագա կերպելու համար: Ընդհանուր առանձին ներկայումս գրասենյակում գործում են գրեթենի, մակրամեի, ասեղնագործության, կարպետագործության, սեղանի ձևավորման, դիզայնի, թատերական, նկարչական, փայտագործության և պարի խմբակներ, որոնցում ներգրավված են մոտ 300 երեխաներ: Մեծահասակների պաշտամունքին ներկա է 90 մարդ, իսկ Կիրակնօրյա դպրոց հաճախում են 120 երեխաներ: Ամառային ճամբարային ծրագրերին այս տարի Գյումրիից կմասնակցեն 240 երեխաներ և երիտասարդներ: Երեխաները հիմա ավելի սիրով ու հոժարությամբ են զայիս կենտրոն, դասասենյակները լուսավոր են և հյուրների, անձնակազմն է աշխատում է հարմարավետ պայմաններում: Ներկայումս Գյումրու գրասենյակում և Գյումրու Հայաստանյաց Ավետարանական Եկեղեցում ծառայում են 26 գրանցված և 7 կամավոր աշխատողներ:

Գյումրու աշխատակազմը հպարտ է և ուրախ, որ աշխատում է այսպիսի կազմակերպության մեջ և ունի հնարավորություն ծառայելու իր քաղաքի բնակչներին և նամանավանդ փոքրիկներին:

Ոչինչ ի մոռացվի, չի մոռացվի այն հազարավոր մեկնած օգնության ձեռքերը, այն հարազատ դարձած, բայց օտար անունները, այն քարի գործը, որ ոտքի կանգնեցրեց մեր տառապած ազգին:

* Կարեն Մանուկյան (Գյումրու գրասենյակի պատասխանատու) և Մարինե Մանուկյան (Գյումրու գրասենյակի սոցիալական աշխատող)

ԳՐԱԽՈՍՏԱԿԱՆ

ՍՓԻՒՐՔԱՀԱՅ ԿԵԱՆՔԵՐ՝ ԻՆՉՊԼԱՆ ՈՐ ՏԵՍԱՅ

Հեղինակ՝ Դոկտ. Հրայր Ճեպէնեան

Արի Թօփուգիսանեան

Որպէս Արաբական Ծոցի Աստուածաշունչի Ընկերութեան Ընդհանուր Քարտուղար, Դոկտոր Հրայր Ճեպէնեան պատեհութիւնը ունի շատ մը երկիրներ այցելելու, եւ առիթը կ'օգտագործէ՝ ծանօթանալու հոն կայք հաստատած հայութեկորներուն հետ։ Վերջին եօթը տարիներու ընթացքին իր ձեռք ճագած փորձառութիւններն են որ հանրութեան կը ներկայացնէ վերոնշեալ խորագիրը կրող 550 էշերէ բաղկացած հատորով մը, որ այս տարի լոյս տեսաւ Պէյրուք՝ Համազգայինի Վահկ Սէրեան իրատարակչատուննեն։

Իրականութեան մէջ, այս ծաւալուն գիրքը չի զրադիր միայն զուտ հայերով։ Հեղինակին հետաքրքրութեան առարկան են նաև շատ մը օտարներ – յոյն, արար, բուրք, հեղիկ, որոնցմէ ոմանք հայկական ծագում ունին։ Միաժամանակ բովանդակութեան մաս կը կազմին բազմաթիւ հոգեւոր խորհրդածութիւններ։

Ինչպէս վերնագիրը կուահել կու տայ, աշխարհի չորս ծագերուն ապաստանած հայորդիներուն ապրած առօրեան է որ կը հանդիսանայ հեղինակին հետաքրքրութեան կիզակէտը։ Ան կը շանայ մուտք գործել անոնց ներաշխարհին ներս։ Իր նապատակն է

«մէկ-մէկ բակել հայկական իրականութիւններ՝ հանդիպելով Հայուն»։ Անյնիսկ երէ ան գտնուի «հեռաւոր Աւստրալիոյ մէջ»։ Իր այցելութիւններէն կ'եղրակացնէ թէ սփիւրքի մէջ «մեր հայկական ինքնուրեան մեծագոյն ու կարեւոր հիմնահարցը՝ հայապահպանութիւն եւ պահանջատիրութիւն է»։ Սակայն «կարելի չէ պահանջատիրութեան գործներացին մէջ յարատեւել, երբ մեր արժեքները ներազգային իմաստով սկսած են վտանգութիւն։ Մեր արժեքներուն օղակներուն մէկիկ-մէկի բափրփիլը պիտի նշանակէ մեր պահանջատիրութեան նժարին եւ անոր հաւասարակշուրթեան խախտումը»։

Հ. Ճեպէնեան կը շեշտէ հայերէն խօսելու կարեւորութիւնը ընտանեկան յարկին տակ, որպէսզի կարենանք պահել մեր ինքնուրեանը՝ ազգային, քրիստոնեական եւ մշակութային պատկանելիութեամբ։ Արդարեւ «ազգ մը՝ որ ենթարկուած է ցեղասպանութեան, ազգ մը՝ որուն պատմութիւնը բարխուած է իր զաւակներուն արիւնով, չի կրնար սակարկութեան դմել իր ինքնուրեանը»։

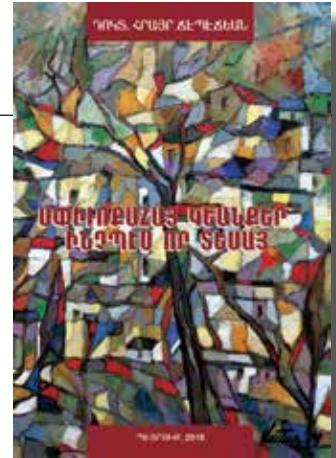
Ըստ հեղինակին, «օրուան մեծագոյն հրամայականը՝ Հայուն հոգեւոր եւ եկեղեցական նոր հայեցակէտ ունենալն է»։ Ան կը գրէ. «Ի՞նչ պիտի ընէ Հայը այսօր իր հազարումէկ հիմնահարցերուն դիմաց – պիտի վերաշնուժացնէ իր մէջ իր ազգային հաւատքի ոյժը։ Այս ոյժով՝ պիտի տուկայ ամէն դժուարութեան, եւ սիրէ իր ինքնուրեանը, մշակոյթը եւ հաւատքը։ Սակայն «կայ նախապատութիւն մը, որ վեր է ամէն միջոցառումներէ՝ հայրենիքը կերտել եւ սփիւրքը վերակազմակերպիլ»։

Համաձայն Դոկտ. Ճեպէնեանի, Հայը ուր ալ ծնի, կ'առնէ այդ երկրին դրոշմը, կենին ու նկարագիրը, կը շինէ ու կը շենցնէ։ Իսկ երէ փոխադրուի այլուր, նոյնը կ'ընէ, հետապնդելով ազգապահպանումի եւ հայապահպանումի տեղականը։ Բայց զայն իրականացնելու համար պէտք է մնայ հայկական կառոյցներէ ներս։

Ընթերցողը սեղեկութիւն կը ստանայ հեղինակին այցելած երկիրներուն մէջ հաստատուած հայ գաղութներու կազմութեան եւ դիմագրաւած հարցերուն մասին։ Յորդանան, Քուէյր, Կիպրոս, Մալթա, Յունաստան, Իտալիա, Հունանա, Լիեհաստան, Էստոնիա, Լարվիա, Երովնիա, Հարաւային Ավրիլի, Էլ Սալվատոր, Փերու, Արմանին, Զիլի, Աւստրալիա, Ճափուն։ Անշուշտ նաև՝ Հայաստան, Թուրքիա, Ֆրանսա եւ Միացեալ Նահանգներ։ Կը ծանօթանայ օրինակելի հայերու՝ ցրուած աշխարհի չորս ծագերը։ Անոնց մէջ կը գտնուի Հունաստայի Տիգրանն՝ որուն մասին կը գրէ. «Տիգրանին ընթացքը Հայուն ընթացքն է, ո՞չ թէ չինելու՝ այլ լինելու, հակառակ ծանր բեռան՝ շարունակելու։ Ասիկա Հունաստայի յատուկ չէ, այլ ամբողջ աշխարհի մէջ»։ Ցիշուելու արժանի են նաև էսքոնիոյ Արտեմն ու Ռազմիկը, Լարվիոյ Տէր Խորովը, Ճափունի Ռազմիկը։ Ամփոփ կենսագրութիւններ ալ արուած են ֆիչ թէ շատ ծանօթ անձերու։ Ասատուր Տէօվլիքրեան, Վարդան Թաշնեան, Վարդգէս Էսիփաշեան, Սոնա Նաշեան, Հետուիկ Պիւլ, Վեր Սիգրան Գունտատիւնեան, Վեր Արմենակ Միսիրեան (Արմիս), Աւետիս Ճեպէնեան, Յովհաննէս Հիմողիեան։

Հեղինակը շատ յանախ կը վերյիշէ Պէյրուքի Եշրեֆիկ բաղին մէջ հաստատուած Հայ Աւետ։ Կեդրոնական Բարձրագոյն Վարժարանի ուսուցիչներն ու դասընկերները, եւ անոնց հետ կապուած նշանակալից դէպֆերը։ Կը նկարագրէ նաև յուղիչ եղելութիւններ, հերոսական արարքներ եւ անակնկալ հանդիպումներ։ Ցիշարժան են Ա՛լ գրելու ոյժ չմնաց», «Վէրքը խորունկ է», «Այշային անէծքը», «Հայուն բարեկամները» եւ «Զէլափին խոստումը» խորագրուած գլուխները։

Դիւրմբոնելի, յարաբերաբար կարի ու գրախ վերնագիր կրող գլուխներով, նոխ ու բազմազան բովանդակութեամբ, խորունկ հայրենասիրական եւ քրիստոնեական շունչով գրուած այս պատկերագարդ գիրքը կը յանձնարաբենք մեր բոլոր ընթերցողներուն։ Ստանալու համար՝ դիմել հեղինակին։ Dr. Hravir JEVEJIAN, P. O. Box 26071, 1666 Nicosia, Cyprus - hravir.jebejian@gmail.com:



ՆԱԽԵՐԳԱԼՆՔ

Նուիրուած Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան

Վեր. Պարգև Արարդեան

Մեր դարաւոր, փառապանձ, չքնաղ երկիրն հայրենի,
Ներկուած հայու արիւնով, դարձած մոխիր, աւերակ,
Վերածուեցաւ մահասփիտ ողբերգութեան թատրոնի.
Հոն՝ զերթ համերգ սրբազն կը մատուցուէր պատարագ:

Մնացորդացն հեք, անզօր քալեց տրտում, անձկագին,
Անցաւ գաղյի հնոցէն ու նետուեցաւ բիրտ, դաժան
Սփիտը կոչուած ովկիանի գիրկն անողորմ յորձանքին,
Եւ պանդուխտի երգն հայուն դարձաւ ընկերն անբաժան:

* * *

Համանակուլ Սփիտը սադրանքներուն հակառակ,
Պերճաշուր նոր աշխարհի յոյսերուն մէջ ծնար դուն.
Ծէնշող կեանքի քաջ ասպետ՝ օրհնաբեր կոչ երկնառաք,
Հայ Աւետարանչական վսեմ ընկերակցութիւն:

Քաջազն, ընտիր հոգիներ, սուրբ տեսիլքով երկնային,
Սիրով, խամդով քեզ ծնան զինուած խօսքովն Յիսուսին,
Որ գործես պողպատ կամքով՝ յարած Փառաց Արքային,
Ծնորիքով հարուստ, տաք սրտեղ՝ սէր, յոյս, բարիք կը հոսին:

Խոշտանգուած մեր սուրբ հողին արեամբ սնած ընդերքէն,
Հայոց վշտի երկունքէն՝ ժայթքող աղբիր մ'է կեանք.
Գործերդ իրեն մարգարիտ՝ քաղուած, օժտուած երկինքէն,
Կը սփոեն խինդ, խրախոյս՝ եւս կը ծաղկի վեհ շանք:

Գորովագութ, վեհ սրտով, դուն բոյժ քոյրի ես նման,
Խիզախ, ուշիմ, սրտակից՝ յոյս, սիրտ կու տաս անկեալին.
Որբին, խեղճին, թշուառին՝ կը բաշխնես ճար ու դարման,
Կը գտնես միշտ, անպայման՝ բարդ հարցերու բանալին:

Մեր հոգեւոր հաւատքի՝ ընտանիքին մեծ եղբայր,
Կայտառ, հօգոր, քաջառողջ՝ սրտով, կեանքով, գործերով
Կու տաս արիւն, կենասահիւթ՝ բիր վերքերով, հեք, թշուառ
Հայ սրտերո՛ որ կ'ինան ծով Սփիտըն ալեխով:

Նուիրեալներդ մինչ այսօր՝ ընդմիշտ լարուած ձգտումով,
Կ'անձկան,
Կ'ընտրեն կը փնտուեն՝ ուխտեալ անձեր, նոր գանձեր.
Որ կեանքդ յորդի վերստին՝ տաղանդներու ներդրումով,
Որ յաղթեն միշտ սէրն, բարին՝ չարն չընկնէ ալ կեանքն, անձեր:

Մեծ տարեդարձիդ սեմին՝ կանգնած ես միշտ ժիր,
Ժապուն, Նորոգուած է կեանքդ համակ՝ նոր տեսիլքով, սուրբ կամքով.
Աշն Աստուծոյ օրհնէ քեզ, եւ իր շնորհքով օծուիս, դուն,
Քեզ բիր ողջոյն, բարի երթ՝ պասկուած փառքով, բերկրանքով:

Յունիս, 1988
Հալեպ, Սուրիա

ԶՈՆԵՐԳ ՆՎԻՐՎՈՒՄ Ե Հայ Ավետարանչական ընկերակցության 100-ամյա հոբեյանին

Մելանյա Գեղասյան

Դու անխոտոր մարդասեր ես,
Բարի գործդ է մեզ պատզամ,
Ինչպես գիտենք՝ չես տրորել
Դու չնշին մժորւկ անզամ:

Անկեղծ սերդ մեզ հոլում է,
Անշահասեր ու բարի,
Թո պարզ հոգին երազում է
Խաղաղությունն աշխարի:

Սիրում ես քո մարդ նմանին,
Օգլության ձեռք ես մեկնում,
Թո վերջին մի պատառ հացն էլ
Խեղճ-տնանկին բաժանում:

Այսպես ուղիղ հարյուր տարի
Կյանք ես տվել ու հովվել,
Բավիլոներում մի ողջ դարի
Չո սուրբ հավատքը բովել:

Ո՞հ, ինչպե՞ս չիպարտանամ,
Չիինամ քո գործով...
Չո բարությամբ, իմաստությամբ
Ապրիր, գործիր դարերով:

Յունիս 2018
Երեւան, Հայաստան

IN MEMORIAM: Governor George Deukmejian



Former Governor of California and the most prominent Armenian American politician in the United States, George Deukmejian passed away at the age of 89 on May 8, 2018 in Long Beach, CA. Mr. Deukmejian, who will be lovingly remembered for his many years of public service and politics in California, was a friend and supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian Community.

Born on June 6, 1928 in Menands, NY, a small village along the Hudson River near Albany, Mr. Deukmejian's Armenian immigrant parents spoke Armenian, Turkish and English at home but taught George and his sister, Anna, only English. The Armenian Genocide was the source of his passion for public order and motivated him to seek a political career. His aunt was killed in the Genocide and his parents fled to the United States to escape persecution. He was proud of his Armenian heritage and during his entire political career, he attempted to get official recognition for the Genocide.

Mr. Deukmejian earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Siena College in Loudonville, NY where he volunteered for the 1948 presidential campaign of New York Governor Thomas Dewey. In 1952, he graduated with a law degree from St. John's University School of Law in Brooklyn.

After law school, he was drafted into the Army and served in Europe. In 1955, he left New York and moved to California where his sister lived. He first worked for Texaco in its land and lease department and soon after worked as a deputy county counsel for Los Angeles County.

At a wedding in 1956 he was introduced to Gloria Saatjian, a young Armenian American and Los Angeles art school graduate. They were married six months later and moved to Long Beach where he opened a law office. In Long Beach, the politically ambitious Deukmejian became involved in a host of civic activities before winning an election to the Assembly.

He went on to spend three decades in California politics as an Assemblyman, Senator, State Attorney General and Governor. He was elected as the state's 35th Governor in 1982 when a massive absentee voting campaign edged him just ahead of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. As Governor from 1983 to 1991, Governor Deukmejian ran a law and order administration, expanding the state's prison system and supporting tough, anti-crime legislation. He earned the nickname "The Iron Duke" from his Republican supporters in the Legislature for his willingness to veto spending proposals.

After he left office, he returned to practicing law from 1991 until 2000 when he retired. Governor Deukmejian was long seen as a senior statesman in Republican politics, quietly advising potential candidates and appearing on panels with the state's former governors. A courthouse was named in his honor in Long Beach in 2013.

He is survived by his wife Gloria, his daughters Leslie Gebb and Andrea Pollak, and his son George Deukmejian, Jr., and grandchildren.

A public memorial to celebrate the life of Governor Deukmejian was held in Long Beach on June 9.

"The AMAA and the Armenian Community have truly lost a dear friend in Governor Deukmejian," said Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. "His strong Armenian roots gave him the humility and passion to do what was best for his constituents and to compassionately identify with fellow Armenians."



We published this 1892 photo of a Meeting of Cilicia Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Aintab on the back cover of the AMAA News (Oct. Nov. Dec. 2017). At that time we were not aware of the names of the individuals in the photo. Varouj Mavlian initiated a search to find the names and Perla Nazarian Kotyan was able to provide the names. However, there are still just a few people who are unidentified. If you recognize them, please call the AMAA (201.265.2607) or e-mail (amaanews@amaa.org). We greatly appreciate your help.

1st row: Prof. Melkonian; Dr. Americus Fuller; Rev. Avedis Boulghourdjian; Mr. Adams; Prof. Alexander Bezdjian; Charles Riggs; Dr. Christe; Dr. Lee; Rev. Hagop Abuhayatian

2nd row: Mr. Meed; Mardiros Agha Gertmenian; Rev. Manoug Misirian; a Rev. from Kharpert; Rev. M. Kozacalian; Rev. Garabed Markarian; Rev. Kara Krikor; Rev. Sarkis Devrian; Rev. Simon Terzian; Rev. Manoug Nigoghosian; Rev. Giragos Jamgochian; Rev. Vartan Najarian; Avedis Djernazian

3rd row: Dr. Armenag Haigazian; Mr. Sanders; Hovhannes Effendi Chilingirian; Apraham Khoja Levonian; Prof. Sarskis Levonian; Rev. Bouloulian; Adour Agha Niziblian; Rev. Gostom Momdjian; Hovhannes Effendi Nalbandian; Rev. Vartivar Mouradian, Unknown; Rev. Hagop Koundakjian; Rev. Hagop Koumrouian; Prof. H.T. Krikorian; Mr. Markarian

4th row: Levon Effendi Ashdjian; Ghazar Khoja Diradourian; unknown; Prof. Zenop A. Bezdjian; Avedis Agha Shanlian; Rev. T. Kerkyasharian; Rev. Asadour Topalian; Rev. Hamartzoum Ashdjian; Rev. Ahron Shiradjian; Eliza Ef Roubian; Rev. G. Sihadjian; Rev. Manoushagian; Simon Effendi Keupelian; three unknown standing next to each other; Yeretz H. Keshishian; Rev. Levon Soghomayan

IN MEMORIAM:

The Rev. Harry Maghakian (1924-2018)

Founder of Nonprofit People Incorporated

Minister Moved Mountains for People on Margins*

By Chris Serres, Reporter, *Star Tribune*



In his Sunday sermons, the Rev. Harry Maghakian was fond of quoting a passage from the Bible: "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."

The passage from the Gospel of Matthew seemed to reflect Maghakian's own larger-than-life ambitions and his faith in the power of a single individual to change the world. In his more than 50 years as a Presbyterian minister, it sometimes seemed as if Maghakian was capable of moving mountains. The son of Armenian immigrants developed some of the state's first halfway houses for people struggling with mental illness and drug addictions, founded a nonprofit that would later become the state's largest community mental health organization, and preached with a charismatic fervor until he was 92 years old.

Maghakian died on May 15 of congestive heart failure. He was 94.

"My father believed that if he loved people and stood for the underdog, then that would take off and spread," said his son, the Rev. David Maghakian, a Presbyterian minister and child protection worker who lives in St. Paul, MN.

Harry Maghakian was born in Los Angeles in 1924, soon after his parents fled genocide in Armenia during World War I. After high school, Maghakian was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned to the 10th Armored Division in Germany. He earned a Purple Heart after his right arm was nearly blown off by a heavy piece of shrapnel. Despite multiple surgeries, his arm would never thoroughly heal and he would remain in pain the rest of his life.

"My father would say, 'Everyone has scars, and you have to see that in people and help them,'" his son, David, said.

When the war ended, Maghakian returned to Los Angeles, studied business at Pepperdine University and started his own real estate business. At the time, Maghakian was also head of the youth ministry at Knox Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, where he met his future wife, Judy. Within a year Maghakian had a sudden change of heart and decided to pursue the ministry full time; he abruptly sold his real estate business and the couple moved to San Francisco, where Maghakian joined the seminary.

From the beginning of his ministry, Maghakian preached about the suffering of people with psychiatric problems, at a time

when mental illness was still shrouded in secrecy.

In 1969, while leading the Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Maghakian became concerned about the growing number of homeless men, mostly veterans, wandering the streets near his church in the Selby-Dale neighborhood. After hearing the men's stories over coffee in the church basement, Maghakian persuaded five Presbyterian churches to launch a new nonprofit — known as People Incorporated — that would offer housing, group therapy, and employment assistance for people with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Over time, Maghakian became increasingly concerned about the shortage of stable, affordable housing for marginalized populations. His research took him on a sabbatical to Harvard University in 1971, where he studied alternative communities and traveled to Israel, living on a kibbutz with his wife and two children. Based on these experiences, Maghakian began to buy houses in the Selby-Dale neighborhood in St. Paul, and he recruited an army of church volunteers to convert them into halfway houses with support services.

"It was a radical concept," said his son, David. "That was still a time when people with mental illness were very much hidden in institutions or stigmatized."

Maghakian would lead People Incorporated for the next 17 years, helping to transform a tiny nonprofit into a sprawling organization serving people throughout the Twin Cities. Today, it is Minnesota's largest nonprofit provider of mental health services, with 56 programs that serve nearly 14,000 clients and has an annual budget surpassing \$50 million.

"My father planted the seed," said his daughter, Sally O'Keefe, "and from there it blossomed."

Besides his wife and two children, Maghakian is survived by grandchildren Erika, Mikaela, Kevin, and Garrett; and great-grandchild, Kendall. Services have been held.

* Published in *Star Tribune* of Minnesota on June 14, 2018

Editor's Note: Rev. Harry Maghakian was the brother of the late Jessie Sarian, wife of the late Jirair Sarian. The Maghakian and Sarian families were long time members and supporters of the AMAA.

Alice Anspikian

Alice Anspikian of Clovis, CA passed away on June 12, 2018. She was 70.

Alice was born in Aleppo, Syria on October 29, 1947. She is survived by her husband, Karekin Anspikian; and her sister, Sonia Jemanjian.

A memorial service for Alice was held on June 23 at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, followed by the internment at Masis Ararat Cemetery. Donations in lieu of flowers were designated to the AMAA. □



Deborah DeMirjian

Deborah Joy De-Mirjian, age 61, passed away on June 29, 2018, in Sherman Oaks, CA, following a long battle with cancer. Debbie was born on October 27, 1956 in Los Angeles. In her teens she moved with her family to Texas, graduating from Memorial High School in Houston before returning to Los Angeles where she earned a BS degree from the USC Marshall School of Business Administration in 1986. Debbie worked for many years as a licensed stockbroker at Merrill Lynch, and pursued her passions for gardening, gourmet cooking, photography, music, theatre and the arts. She designed and built stained glass windows, loved nature, and was devoted to health, fitness, and an enduring love of both the state of Texas and the University of Southern California.

Debbie is survived by her beloved parents, Harold and Frances DeMirjian, brother and sister-in-law Steve and Carol DeMirjian, nieces Dominique and Olivia DeMirjian, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. Private graveside services were held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood. A memorial service was held on August 18 at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA.

Charitable donations may be made to the United Armenian Congregational Church for the Deborah DeMirjian Endowment Fund, the Bel Air Presbyterian Church, or The Angeles Clinic & Research Institute. □



of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. She resided in New York City for 28 years until she married in 1955. After her marriage to George, they moved to Niagara Falls where she resided until moving to Mobile in 1969 and became a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. She volunteered at Providence Hospital in Mobile for over 20 years.

Rosemary was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She loved her family and enjoyed cooking. She was preceded in death by her son Eric Edward Nazarian. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, George Nazarian; three children, Carl George, Aram Philip (Ana), and Ruth Takouhi Nazarian; three grandchildren, Sara Nazarian, Mary Nazarian, and Breyanna Brazier and many relatives.

A Witness to the Resurrection Service was held on June 22 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. □

Berjouhi Ketenjian

Berjouhi Gurlekian Ketenjian, an Armenian Evangelical pastor's daughter, surgical nurse, wife, mother, long-time Camp AREV medical staff volunteer, Bible teacher, and a quiet and effective worker, passed away May 25, 2018 in Granada, CA.



Born in Kessab to Hagop and Nectar Gurlekian on March 9, 1929, she was the second of five siblings, and a pioneer in her family in many respects. She came to faith at an early age and continued in the ways of the Lord throughout her whole life. She spent most of her life taking care of her family, working as a nurse, and studying and teaching the Bible in various settings, including Adult Bible Study, Sermonettes from the pulpit and one-on-one sharing.

Berjouhi grew up in Beirut. Her desire to become a nurse culminated in her attending American University of Beirut and eventually arriving in the United States first in Philadelphia then Chicago and ultimately Los Angeles. Her arrival in the United States paved the way for many other relatives and family to immigrate to the US.

She worked the swing shift at the hospital and was deeply loved and admired at work. For many years she was a surgical nurse at UCLA Medical Center. Berjouhi loved music and going to Christian concerts and she encouraged her children to learn and love music.

Berjouhi and her husband Vartkes decided it was important that their children learn Armenian, so they enrolled them in Kessab Educational Association Saturday School. Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles was a regular part of family life. After retiring from UCLA in 1993 she moved from Hawthorne to Granada Hills to be close to her

children. She cared for her seven grandchildren, making herself available as often as needed.

In September 2000, Berjouhi had a serious seizure and was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Vartkes cared for her at their home in Granada Hills until 2010, when she entered a small Armenian assisted living facility in Granada Hills.

Her beloved daughter Ruth Fitzgerald, a talented singer and worship leader, died in 2016. She is survived by her husband Vartkes; brother Khacig Gurlekian, sisters Anayis Kasper and Arpi Robine; sons Hagop (Cynthia) Ketenjian and Samuel (Lena) Ketenjian; grandchildren Heather (Chris) Moore, Timothy Ketenjian, Mark (Jennifer) Ketenjian, Rachel Ketenjian, Hannah Ketenjian, Taline Ketenjian, and Andrew Ketenjian; and three great-grandchildren: Samantha, Ryan and Kacie Moore. □

Anita Mosesian

Anita Mosesian (nee Kandarian) age 100, passed away on January 20, 2018 in Fresno, CA.



Born in Malaga, CA on July 13, 1917 she was the youngest and only daughter to George and Higanoosh Kandarian.

After attending Malaga grammar school, she went on to graduate from Fowler High School then attended City College. During WWII she worked for the Department of Defense making parts for airplanes being used in the war. When the war was over, she met and married her husband Edward Charles Mosesian in 1948. She worked for Fresno Unified School District in the kitchen until retirement.

Anita was a member of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church where both she and her husband served as Deacons of the Church for four years. She was a member of the Dorcas Guild.

Visitation was held on January 29 at Yost & Webb Funeral Home in Fresno and the Graveside Service on January 30 at Ararat Cemetery in Fresno.

Alice is survived by her son Edward G. Mosesian, four grandchildren, Angela Mosesian, Emily Abell, Elaine Mosesian and Matthew Mosesian, five great-grandchildren Jordan, Alina, Triana, Caydence and Scarlett and many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. She was predeceased by her husband Edward Mosesian.

Donations were designated for the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. □



Rosemary Nazarian

Rosemary Eghigian Nazarian, a native of Utica, NY and a resident of Mobile, AL for the past 49 years, died June 17, 2018 at her residence surrounded by family.

An AMAA supporter, Rosemary was a member



Featured Books



**Armenian English Diglot
New Testament**
Western Armenian and Today's English version.
Item # 508 - Price \$15.00



**Սուրբ Գրային Հերոսներ
Սովորել եւ Հովան**
Heroes of the Bible: Moses and Jonah
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History of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of North and South America
History of AEUNA churches, their founders, locations, pastors, leaders, and programs.
Published by AEUNA
Item # 401CO - Price: \$10.00



A Century of Armenian Protestantism 1846-1946 (Second Printing)
The author recounts the history of the Armenian Evangelical movement from its beginning to 1946.
by Leon Arpee
Item # 365 - Price: \$20.00



A History of Armenian Christianity (Second Printing)
A fairly objective overview of the Christian pilgrimage of the Armenian people throughout the centuries.
by Leon Arpee
Item # 366 - Price: \$30.00



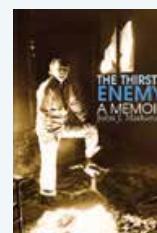
The Hymnal (Hokeyov Yerkaran)
Հոգեւոր Երգարան
Bilingual Hymns
Item # 353 - Price: \$30.00



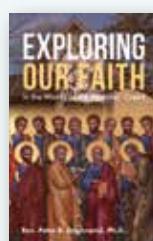
Reclaiming Konia
A tale of love, loss and the Armenian Genocide – based on the true story of Melkon Jenanyan.
By Heather Ruth Martin
Item # 376CO - Price: \$14.99



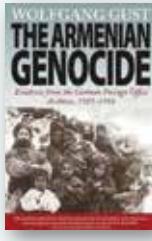
The Youth Home of Istanbul: A Story of the Remnants' Homecoming.
By Hrant Guzelian
Item # 357 - Price: \$20.00



The Thirsty Enemy - A Memoir
Dr. Markarian's (founding President of Haigazian University) and his wife's adventurous living in Lebanon during the Civil War Years.
Rev. Dr. John Markarian
Item # 335 - Price: \$15.00



**Exploring Our Faith:
In the Words of the Apostles' Creed**
By Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji
Item # 358 - Price: \$10.00



The Armenian Genocide
Evidence from the German Foreign Office Archives, 1915-1916.
Compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust
Item # 349 - Price: \$75.00



The Recipes of Musa Dagh
An Armenian Cookbook in a Dialect of its Own.
by Alberta, Anna and Louisa Magzarian
Item # 364CO - Price: \$19.50

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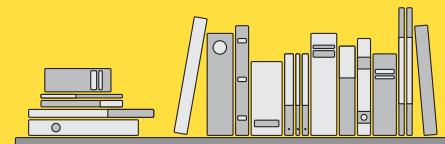
Ըստհակալութեամբ Սսացակ Received With Thanks

The AMAA acknowledges with gratitude receipt of the following new bilingual publications:

Հայոց Պատմութիւնը Նրոշմաթուղթերու եւ Դրամներու Ուսումնասիրութեամբ - Հեղինակ՝ Արման Սերեֆ - **Encyclopedia of Armenia and Armenians of the World** by Arman Seref (Book Review on AMAA's Website <https://amaa.org/book-reviews/>)

Սփիլօքահայ Կեանքեր՝ Ինչպէս որ Տեսայ – Հրայր ճեպէճեան
Վան-Կասպուրական Աշխարհը – Պատմագիտական, Տեղագրական, Բանասիրական Հետազոտութեանց Ընդմեջն – Խաչատուր Լեւոնեան - Կազմեց, Խմբագրեց եւ Ծանօթագրեց Երևանի Հ. Զասուլի Քննադատական Մտածողութիւնը Լիբանանահայ Վարժարաններու Մէջ – Յակոբ Ա. Եազուակեան
The Armenian Weekly – 100 (1918-2018)

Armenians of Syria, Proceedings of the Conference (24-27 May 2015), Armenia Diaspora III, Haigazian University Research Center – Սուլիիոյ Հայերը, Գիտաժողովի Նիւթեր (24-27 Մայիս 2015), Հայկական Սփիլօք Գ., Հայկագեան Համալսարան Հայկական Սփիլօքի Ուսումնասիրութեան Կերորուն



100

SEPT.
23-30
2018



AMAA

CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF FAITH LOVE & SERVICE IN ARMENIA



Sunday, Sept. 23, 7 pm
Musical Ensemble of Armavir Church
AMAA Center (Baghramyan 18)



Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7 pm
The Angel of Salvation
(In memory of Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian)
Presented by AMAA's Hayasa Theatrical Group
Script Writer and Director Nuné Abrahamyan
AMAA Center (Baghramyan 18)



Wednesday, Sept. 26, 3 pm
Opening of an Exhibition of Art Works by
Armenian Evangelical Artists
Artists' Union of Armenia
(16 Abovyan Street, Yerevan)
The exhibition will be open until Oct. 1,
11:00 am - 5:00 pm



Friday, Sept. 28, 7 pm
AMAA presents
“A Journey of Faith, Love and Service”
Centennial Celebration
Opera House, Yerevan



Saturday, Sept. 29
Celebratory Banquet
6 pm Reception, 7 pm Dinner
Marriott, Yerevan



Sunday, Sept. 30
Dedication of The newly constructed
AMAA Community Center and Church Building
in Gyumri (Sayat Nova 6/9)
10:30 am Coffee hour; 11:00 am Ribbon cutting;
12:00 noon Worship; 2:30 pm Lunch in Gyumri



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